

## Portfolio £42,000 can be won

The Times Portfolio prize yesterday was won by a deputy headmistress from Kent whose husband is a journalist on the Daily Telegraph. (Full report, back page). Prizes totalling £42,000 are available today. Today's share list and prices, page 28.

## Safeguards for Jaguar car sell-off

Private companies and individuals will be limited to a maximum of 15 per cent when Jaguar Cars is floated on the Stock Exchange later this month. The Government will also retain the right to veto substantial changes to the way the company is structured.

## McEnroe again reaches final

John McEnroe, the champion, will meet Jimmy Connors in the men's singles final at Wimbledon tomorrow. McEnroe beat Pat Cash 6-3, 7-6, 6-4 and Connors beat Ivan Lendl 6-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 in the semi-finals. Connors later complained of an ailing shoulder.

## Hijack ends

Man and woman held in hijacking of a British Airways Boeing 747, which was hijacked by a Sikh, ended when the hijacker was shot dead by police.

## Argentine purge

The Argentine Government is considering more changes in the army leadership to deal with the crisis over military discipline.

## FT is back

The Financial Times reappeared in restricted form today after yesterday's edition was halted because of a stoppage by members of the NUJ pursuing a 13 per cent pay claim.

## Vaccine claim

A High Court judge has allowed seven children brain damaged from whooping cough vaccinations to claim damages against the Department of Health and Social Security.

## Parole plea

The Court of Appeal has refused to declare unlawful the Home Secretary's hard-line policy on parole for murderers, drug dealers and violent offenders.

## Thatcher tour

Mrs Thatcher plans to visit Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia in September, diplomatic sources said.

## Mondale poser

Mr Walter Mondale, coming under increasing pressure to choose a woman as his vice-presidential running mate, is having to weigh carefully the possible advantages and disadvantages.

## Telecom shops

British Telecom is planning to set up a network of high street shops where subscribers can take their telephone for repair or pay their bills.

## England's pride

The French have accepted for the first time that the 1,000-year-old Bayeux Tapestry, France's greatest national treasure, was made in England.

## Doctor jailed

Dr Mark Patterson, who masterminded a scheme to steal hospital blood for sale abroad, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court for three years.

## School injuries

If children injure themselves at school, the cost over a child's lifetime can be high, but parents can guard against this by proper insurance.

Family Money, page 27

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Leading articles: The Dikko affair; Dalai Lama's visit; Parole  
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Dr Manuel Lederman, the Rev Dr A. M. G. Stephenson

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# 'Mercenaries' held after kidnap of doped Nigerian

By Peter Davenport

Three suspected Middle Eastern mercenaries were being questioned by anti-terrorist squad detectives last night about the kidnapping of the Nigerian millionaire and former government minister, Alhaji Umaru Dikko.

Fourteen other people, including a British woman and nine Nigerians, were also being asked about their role in the affair, which has plunged diplomatic relations between London and Lagos into crisis.

The 222 passengers and 22 crew members of a British Caledonian Boeing 747 were being held in Lagos yesterday on the orders of the military junta.

The aircraft, bound for Heathrow, had been ordered to return after it was 45 minutes into its flight, in a tit-for-tat move because police were detaining an aircraft of Nigerian Airways and its crew at Stansted in Essex.

Last night it appeared that some of the British Caledonian passengers would be allowed to leave Lagos on other flights.

The green and white Nigerian Boeing 707 had been waiting to fly to Lagos on Thursday when detectives broke open two wooden crates, marked for the Ministry of External Affairs from the High Commission in London. Inside they found a drugged and unconscious Alhaji Dikko and three captors.

They had arrived at Stansted in a white container van escorted by two black Mercedes saloons bearing the diplomatic number plates of the Nigerian High Commission.

A member of the High Commission, who was to act as courier with the consignment of human cargo, was among those being questioned by the police last night.

In the House of Commons the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, described the foiled kidnapping as an outrage and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, called the Nigerian High Commissioner in to see him.

He was told that the Government expected the Nigerians to waive diplomatic immunity if necessary during the police investigation. None of those being questioned has claimed immunity.

Last night detectives were still trying to discover if the kidnapping attempt was ordered by the military regime in Lagos or undertaken as a freelance operation by mercenaries out to make a financial killing by returning Alhaji Dikko for trial in alleged corruption charges.

Scientists believe that the drug used on Alhaji Dikko, who is recovering at the Herts and Essex Hospital in Bishops Cleeve, was a powerful sedative.

The Nigerian Airways Boeing 707, which had arrived empty on Wednesday, was waiting near by.

The two crates, Commander Huckleby explained were addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Lagos, and purported to be from the High Commission in London.

A customs officer at Stansted, briefed about the Scotland Yard alert, became suspicious of the crates and called the police.

A Nigerian from the High Commission, who claimed he was the courier with the crates, was asked to watch as they were opened. Commander Huckleby said that he was satisfied they were not diplomatic baggage as defined by the Vienna Convention.

When police opened the crates, made of thick plywood nailed to a solid wooden pallet base, they first found Alhaji Dikko and a kidnapper carrying a syringe and drugs.

In the other crate police found two other men. The three are believed to be an Israeli, a Tunisian and a Cypriot.

Eleven other people were arrested at the airport. Three others were arrested elsewhere.



The Nigerian Airways 707 at Stansted Airport (top). Major-General H. A. Hananiya, the Nigerian High Commissioner (left). A recent photograph of Alhaji Dikko (right).

## Airliner crew held in Lagos

From Eddie Iroh, Lagos, and Our Foreign Staff

Nigerian authorities yesterday released 222 passengers of a British Caledonian Boeing 747 detained at Lagos airport earlier in the day.

The crew of 22 were still being held last night and were believed to have been taken away by security officials. The airline said later they were being kept in a Government "rest house".

There was no information on when the airliner and crew might be allowed to leave but the passengers have been told their tickets will be valid on other airlines' flights back to Europe. The first, a Swissair flight, was leaving shortly before midnight for Zurich.

British Caledonian said most of the non-Nigerians booked on their flight were being put up in hotels near the airport after being released by the deputy commissioner of police. They had earlier been kept under guard in a departure lounge.

Talks are still going on between the British High Commissioner and the authorities to secure the release of the plane, the airline said.

After a statement late on Thursday night, in which the Nigerian government urged "all persons to remain calm", official sources have made little comment.

However, Brigadier Tunde Idagbon, number two man in the Nigerian military government, yesterday accused British of providing "a haven for those who perpetrated economic outrage" against Nigeria.

So far there is absolutely no indication in Lagos that the government was involved in the kidnapping attempt. Unofficial sources point out that Alhaji Dikko and other exiled Nigerians have no shortage of enemies.

While British Caledonian cancelled last night's flight from Gatwick to Lagos, a flight was still scheduled for Monday. "It is our intention to operate," the airline said. "A lot depends on what happens between now and then."

## Home loans threat as base rates rise

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Government hopes of avoiding a rise in interest rates were dashed yesterday as the big banks raised their base rates from 9.25 to 10 per cent and the building societies said that a rise in the mortgage rate was now all but inevitable.

With sterling touching another all-time low of \$1.31 against the dollar and market pressures intensifying, Barclays was first to put up a case of borrowing and was soon followed by the other banks.

The building societies will decide how much to raise the mortgage rate from the present 10.25 per cent at their regular monthly meeting next Friday. Mr Herbert Walden, chairman of the Building Societies Association, said societies would almost certainly need to increase their rates to stay competitive. An increase to 11 per cent or possibly 11.25 per cent is on the cards.

The rise in rates brought a brief respite for the pound which had opened sharply lower. But sterling soon began to weaken again against the strong US dollar, closing a quarter of a cent down at \$1.3155. Its trade-weighted value, down to 77.4 initially, finished 0.4 lower at 77.9. This is the lowest since the index was rebased in 1981.

The Government has blamed the pound's weakness on rising oil prices and the US dollar's strength. The increase will push up industry's costs at a sensitive stage in the recovery and when the underlying jobless total is still rising. Higher mortgage rates will also add to inflation.

However Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said on BBC radio that it would not have a serious effect on the economy which was strong and healthy.

Kenneth Fleet, page 23

## Pit deal possible in continuing talks

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Peace talks between the miners and the National Coal Board are to continue early next week after a second day of cautious moves towards a joint deal on the future of the industry.

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers and the coal board adjourned their intensive negotiations after five hours yesterday, and fresh efforts will be made on Monday to reach a return-to-work formula that will accommodate conflicting demands over pit closures.

Neither side is making any public comment about the content of the discussions, which have lasted for fourteen and a half hours over two days, but they are understood to be addressing the kernel of the dispute - the status of high-cost "uneconomic" pits.

A procedure is under debate that could introduce a third category of jeopardized pits other than those facing closure through seam exhaustion or extreme geological difficulties. Such mines could face closure because of the high cost of extracting remaining reserves, but there would still have to be joint agreement with the NUM before a shutdown.

An arrangement of this sort would leave the union with a form of veto over the coal board's capacity reduction programme, but in practice it would only be exercised if there was an overwhelming case for the retention of the mine in question.

It now looks certain that the parties are trying to produce a draft settlement that could be put to the NUM's special delegate conference, which opens in Sheffield next Wednesday. There is scope on the agenda for an emergency decision on the future conduct of the 17-week strike.

The past two days of talks have been marked by an absence of the rancour that characterized previous attempts to make peace in the industry, and this has encouraged observers on both sides to believe that a negotiated solution is possible.

But as the parties talk in the comfortable confines of a hotel in London's West End, the conflict goes on in the coal fields. The Yorkshire town of Selby, the centre of the new mining complex was brought to a standstill for two hours by pickets yesterday, and the coal boards headquarters in the North-east were occupied by striking pitmen for four hours.

The occupation of the offices in Team Valley, Gateshead, came after letters were sent to 22,500 miners in Durham and Northumberland inviting them to join the strike.

Continued on back page, col 3

## 'Economist' attacks Thatcher

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Economist yesterday joined the growing ranks of Mrs Thatcher's critics with a scathing personal and political attack on the Prime Minister.

The deeply-conservative magazine's leading article said that the Government was becoming the most inept administration since the war, and that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was looking alarmingly like Mr Harold Wilson, former Labour Premier, in his final years in office.

She faulted dictatorial power, she had lost her ability to move in the right direction without "slipping on a banana skin and falling on her face", she had been slap-dash on local government, she had neglected Ulster, she had become bored with the European Community budget, and had accepted second best at Fontainebleau, and she had been hypocritical on milk quotas.

But the most wounding charge involved an unfavourable comparison with Mr Edward Heath, former Conservative Prime Minister.

The article said that the Cabinet was more dominated by the Prime Minister than any other since the war, and she suffered "the occupational hazard of the Prime Minister".

Continued on back page, col 6

## Turner may ask Queen to defer trip

Mr John Turner, the Canadian Prime Minister, left yesterday for a hastily arranged audience in London with the Queen to discuss a possible postponement of her two-week tour of Canada, scheduled to begin next Saturday (John Bevis writes from Ottawa).

It was strongly rumoured in Ottawa that Mr Turner intended to call an early general election with the result, as things stand, that the Queen would be in Canada during the campaign.

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Continued on back page, col 6

## Renaissance scene for bishop's consecration

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The consecration of the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, was interrupted twice by protests in York Minster yesterday.

A clergyman was forcibly removed from the lectern and escorted outside after a short harangue lost on most of the congregation.

The public address system was not working throughout the service, and the ancient cathedral acoustics blurred his speech.

Earlier, a layman had shouted angrily from the body of the church just before the sermon. His words were also largely lost, and he, too, was escorted out.

Both were protesting at the consecration of a man they considered heretical because of his doubts about the historical accuracy of the Virgin Birth and Resurrection stories.

After the second interruption the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, who was presiding, asked for prayers for love and charity. The congregation stood in silence for a few moments before the service proceeded.



The Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, and the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, yesterday.

as the Church of England has received it, and in your ministry you will expound and teach it." There was nothing tentative about his strong reply: "I believe it, and will do so."

But there was an ironic reminder of the controversy later, during the communion. The choir sang a motet by Mozart beginning: "Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine..."

Thirty-five bishops participated in the consecration. Dr Habgood placed his hands on the head of the kneeling bishop-elect, several bishops piled their hands on his, and the remainder stretched out their arms to touch the shoulder of the bishop in front - a scene reminiscent of a Renaissance painting.

It was an unprecedented and dramatic show of solidarity, facilitated by the bishops having to be in York today for the start of the General Synod.

The sermon from Professor Dennis Nineham, professor of theology at Bristol University, was an uncompromising defence of the new interpretation of the Christian faith, and his friend David Jenkins.

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Speaking slowly to overcome the acoustic difficulties, Professor Nineham said there were statements in the Bible and the creeds which were taken at face value by our forefathers, but which should now be understood religiously.

Outside the Minster Mr Anthony Williams, from Ripon, paraded with a banner proclaiming: "No bodily resurrection, no Christian faith."

The clergyman, who briefly occupied the lectern, displacing the bierged, Vicar-General of the diocese for a few moments, was the Rev John Mowl, of St John's Church, Buglawton, Cheshire.

## THE TIMES

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Rex Bellamy reports from Wimbledon. Fred Perry discusses the women's final. Page 29



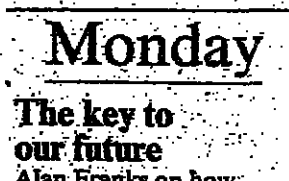
#### Change that script, Kinnock

Labour official turned Hollywood writer sends a scenario to the party leader. Page 10



#### Big bikes and little bikes

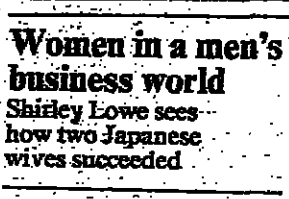
Ronald Faux and Trudi Braun on the new kings of the road. Page 13



#### Monday

#### The key to our future

Alan Franks on how even pre-school children are mastering the home computer.



#### Women in a men's business world

Shirley Lowe sees how two Japanese wives succeeded.

#### All aboard for Shakespeare

Stephanie Calman in Stratford with the Americans.

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# The routine alert that revealed an extraordinary kidnap

The first that Stansted knew of an extraordinary kidnap was just before 1pm on Thursday when Essex police, acting on a request from Scotland Yard, asked airport authorities to watch for any flights to or from Nigeria and prevent any take-offs.

At that stage local police took no further action. Such requests are routine and frequent, usually concerning the suspected movement of stolen goods.

But there was a Nigerian Airways aircraft at Stansted, a green and white Boeing 707 converted to cargo carrying.

Staff at Stansted, the airline's handling agents, confirmed that it had flown in empty from Lagos on Wednesday evening and was due to take off at 7pm on Thursday with a load of furniture, catering equipment and general cargo.

"We were told to expect some further cargo that afternoon but we were not told what it was, nor would we normally expect to be," Servisair said.

The aircraft was parked by the ramp of the main cargo customs shed, across the airfield

From Alan Hamilton, Stansted

and out of sight of the busy passenger terminal. No passenger flights to Nigeria operate from Stansted, but Nigerian Airways and the Lagos Independent airline, Intercontinental, use it occasionally for cargo flights if their main Heathrow base is busy or if Stansted is more convenient for deliveries.

Stansted is within easy reach of central London, with access by the M11 and M25.

Mr Robert Carter, Servisair's station manager at Stansted, said that a container van arrived at the cargo terminal shortly after 4 pm. The two crates unloaded were of normal air cargo type and aroused no suspicion. Mr Carter was not aware of their labelling.

The van was accompanied by two black Mercedes saloon cars bearing the diplomat number plates of the Nigerian High Commission.

The crates were unloaded by fork lift truck and placed in the customs shed to await loading.

Mr Carter said: "A customs officer came to inspect the cargo in the normal way, and his suspicions were apparently

aroused by the labelling on the crates. He telephoned the police, told my staff not to load the crates on to the aircraft, and all my staff were cleared out of the shed while they were opened.

High Commission staff who had travelled from London in the Mercedes and who had stayed near the cargo shed were invited to be present when, shortly before 7 pm, Essex police arrived to open the crates discovering four men inside.

Customs and excise officials at Stansted and London refused to comment on the incident yesterday.

Essex police refused to elaborate on what happened between the opening of the crates and Alhaji Dikko's arrival at the Hertfordshire and Essex hospital in Bishop's Stortford three miles away, 90 minutes later at 8.30 pm.

Seventeen arrests were made, including the three men other than Alhaji Dikko in the crates. The High Commission staff who had travelled to Stansted and the Boeing's Nigerian crew of three



Two cars belonging to the Nigerian High Commission, present when Alhaji Umaru Dikko was rescued from a crate, being guarded in the cargo area at Stansted airport yesterday. Right: Commander William Huckleby of the anti-terrorist squad, who is in charge of the investigation

## Strong Israeli ties but link is denied

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel's foreign ministry claimed last night to have no official knowledge of any Israeli connexion with the Dikko affair despite persistent reports from London that one of the men found in one of the crates and later detained was an Israeli national.

"We know nothing at all about this except what we are being told by journalists", a senior official said.

Although Nigeria was one of more than 20 Black African countries which broke diplomatic ties with Israel after the 1973 Middle East war, Israel has maintained strong economic, agricultural and other links with it. At the last count it was estimated that some 500 Israeli families were living in what is Africa's most populous country.

According to a reliable source, the Israeli presence in Nigeria is the largest in any Black African country and includes three Hebrew-speaking schools set up to accommodate the children of the Jewish technicians, engineers and advisers on assignment.

The growing unofficial involvement with Nigeria, reported to have involved the supply of some £4m of para-military equipment to the Nigerian police during the past 12 months - is very much part of the pattern of Israel's gradual quiet expansion of its economic, military and diplomatic relationships in Africa.

Exact figures are difficult to come by but Western diplomats believe that about 4,000 Israelis work in Black Africa and that trade now totals some £130m a year. Africa is regarded as important a clandestine market for Israeli exports as Iran was before the Shah was overthrown in 1979.

In order not to embarrass the governments concerned, little publicity has been given to the various arrangements. These are known to have involved the supply of weapons and security training experts to Zaire, which along with Liberia resumed its diplomatic ties after Israel's final pull out from occupied Sinai in 1982.

## 'Dash' is needed to survive

Corruption is endemic in Nigeria, and in most other places in West Africa. The trouble with the Shagari regime, according to businessmen who have long dealt with Nigeria, is that an acceptable 10 per cent became an impossible 30 per cent or higher.

Corruption operates at all levels. "Dash" is normally paid if one wishes to obtain a birth certificate, get some groceries delivered, ensure that some goods pass through the customs and out of the docks.

The "dash" varies from a few kobo to hundreds of thousands of naira.

The law enforcement agencies have been as involved as anyone.

There are frequent road-blocks in Lagos aimed at preventing armed robbery. A policeman will normally put his head in the window and say: "Wetin you carry?" This is Nigerian English for "what are you carrying?" But what it really means, as the driver would be sure to know, is: "How much are you prepared to pay to prevent me from holding you up for hours by searching your car?" Normally a few notes pass hands and the car drives on.

More seriously, prosecutions for traffic offences and more serious "matters" can be prevented by a payment to some police officers and the lower courts can often be influenced by money.

Customs and excise has always been notorious. "You can smuggle a train into Nigeria, if you pay the right people," a businessman was once quoted as saying.

One of the most depressing statistics of the last years of the Shagari regime was that the largest number of graduates applying to join the civil service put customs and excise as their first choice.

This was not because this gave these young people a chance of interesting work or useful service: it was because it is easiest to get rich quick at customs and excise.

Over the years successive governments have mounted campaigns against corruption. President Shagari called for an "ethical revolution". This caused the Nigerian poet Wole Soyinka to write a song about "ethical private jets".

General Buhari has mounted what he calls a "war against indiscipline". There are posters all over Lagos with the initials WAI.

There are few signs that it is having any effect. A cartoonist in the irreverent Nigerian press had a character explaining to another: "WAI? It means you must wait your turn to be corrupt."



A lone constable guards the £400,000 Bayswater home of Alhaji Dikko yesterday. (Photograph: Martin Mayer)

## 'Mafia' man was said to have made millions from rice rackets

By Kenneth Mackenzie

An inner circle of Muslims from the north of Nigeria - mostly from Kaduna state and sometimes known as the "Kaduna mafia" - have exercised great influence in Nigerian affairs.

Alhaji Umaru Dikko was one of these and the Nigerians allege he used this influence to salt away hundreds of millions of pounds overseas.

He comes from Zaria, in the northern part of Kaduna state and is married to a relative of former President Shagari (who comes from Sokoto), which helped to make him one of the president's closest advisers.

When one meets him he gives an air of being conscious of his power. His enemies might describe him as an arrogant man. He is strongly built, always immaculately

dressed, usually in Muslim robes.

As a minister he used to enjoy talking to the press, joking often, reminding people that he had some experience of radio journalism, but never giving anything away and often conveying a threat, particularly to Nigerian journalists.

After schooling in Zaria he came to London to take a Bachelor of Science degree at London University and at that time, in the early 1960s, he also worked for a time for the BBC Hausa service. He first came to public notice as a leader of Nigerian students in London.

Back in Nigeria he entered the service of the military regime, to become, by 1967, Commissioner of Finance in the North Central State (which then included Kaduna) and

later Commissioner for Information in the state.

When party politics resumed before the return to civilian rule in 1979 he joined the National Party of Nigeria and rapidly rose to a position of power. He stood for the Senate in the 1979 election in Zaria, but lost. His enemies would later refer to this, claiming that the people of Zaria had seen him in action as a Commissioner of Finance and could estimate his worth.

However, he had played a large part in organizing his party's successful campaign in the rest of the country and President Shagari rewarded him with the post of Minister of Transport.

He was not regarded as a great success as a minister, but remained close to the president and to the sources of power.

He emerged more strongly

into the public eye (and this provides one of the main reasons the present Nigerian government wants him back) in 1983 when at a time of rice shortage the president set up a special task force, with Alhaji Dikko at its head, to supervise the import and sale of rice.

For months this provided matter for scandal, hinted at but never fully exposed by the Nigerian press. The rice found its way to the public through many hands, and at inflated prices. Many people grew rich because of it. After the coup, several warehouses full of boarded rice were discovered.

The allegation was that the ruling party raised election funds through rice rackets, and that some party leaders made personal fortunes, including Alhaji Dikko.

Alhaji Dikko was appointed

campaign manager for President Shagari for the 1983 election. It was a well-organized campaign, most people admitted, but that was largely irrelevant as the results were scandalously rigged to ensure that the ruling party won.

What part Alhaji Dikko played in the rigging is a matter of controversy in Nigeria. Most observers agree that rigging was mostly a matter of local enterprise by people lower down the party pecking order.

Alhaji Dikko was fortunate in fleeing dramatically from Nigeria after the coup on December 31. It was reported that he disguised himself as a priest and made his way over the border, part of the way by motorcycle. He was reported to have a fortune waiting for him overseas.

Mr Brittan: Sir Geoffrey Howe would have heard that. Until the British Caledonian plane is released, it will be very difficult for the Government to understand how a friendly government could have been deceived in this way.

Peers in all parts of the House of Lords expressed their sense of outrage at the incident when the statement was repeated by Lord Elton. Under Secretary of State, Home Office, Lord Malsome, for the Opposition described it as grotesque, and horrendous.

Lord Elton said he understood there were two chauffeurs and one attaché case which he had seen at the airport when the crates were discovered.

The Foreign Secretary (the added later) announced a review of the Convention on May 1 (and he will be taking this further incident into account, I understand he will be making the outcome of his review known shortly).

Lord Bottomley (Lab): It is unfortunate that this incident should happen so soon after the arrival of the new Nigerian High Commissioner. I was with him on Wednesday and he expressed his earnest desire to consolidate good relations between Nigeria and this country.

Lord Elton: It is more than unfortunate that it should happen at any time and particularly that it should happen now. Conduct of this sort brings diplomacy into ill-repute.

Lord Emswiler: It is a disaster that it should happen at any time and particularly that it should happen now. Conduct of this sort brings diplomacy into ill-repute.

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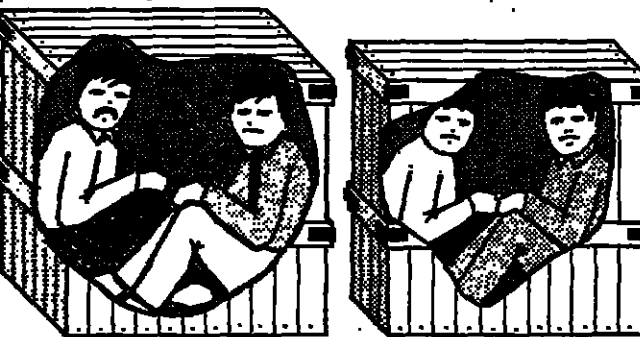
## London Nigerians silent on abduction

Officials at the Nigerian High Commission in London maintained throughout yesterday that they knew of events at Stansted airport only through what they had learnt from the media.

"We do not even know who the representative was at Stansted," Mr Moses Ekpo, the High Commission press officer, said. Told that it was Mr O. Edet, an attaché at the High Commission, he said: "We are not saying anything until our consular representative has returned from interviewing the people who have been detained."

Major-General Hardu Hananiya, the High Commissioner, said earlier yesterday he did not know who the kidnappers were, but that they were "patriotic friends of Nigeria."

Chief Francis Nzebe, a prominent Nigerian business-



How the four men were hidden - Alhaji Dikko, according to police sources, in the larger box.

## PARLIAMENT July 6 1984

### COMMONS

The people of Britain would not put up with outrages emanating from diplomatic sources, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, declared in the Commons in response to questions following his statement about the attempt the previous day to abduct Mr Dikko, the former Nigerian Transport Minister and brother-in-law of the imprisoned President Shagari of Nigeria.

MPs on both sides made clear that their attitude towards the Nigerian Government and its High Commission in London would be considerably swayed by the speed with which the Nigerians release the British Caledonian aircraft, impounded earlier in the day at Lagos.

Mr Brittan said the crate opened at Stansted Airport and found to contain an unconscious Mr Dikko and another person who was unconscious and in possession of drugs and syringes, was addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs in Lagos and purported to come from the Nigerian High Commission in London.

The crate was not accompanied by an official document indicating the status of any courier or the number of packages constituting the diplomatic bag, nor did it have the other marks of a diplomatic bag as such. It was clear this was not a diplomatic bag although it purported to come from the High

Commission. There was no courier. He was using the word "purported" because the matter was the subject of investigation.

In his statement, Mr Brittan said that 17 people, including the remaining three found in the crates, were arrested by the police and were being questioned. None of those arrested had claimed diplomatic immunity.

He went on: The Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) summoned the High Commissioner for Nigeria to see him this morning and told him that he took a most serious view of the incident. The High Commissioner undertook to convey to his government a report of the meeting. He denied any High Commission involvement in the incident.

The Foreign Secretary said he expected the fullest cooperation from the Nigerian High Commission in the investigation of this incident, including the waiver of diplomatic immunity if that were necessary for the purpose of ensuring justice.

Mr Denis Howell, an Opposition spokesman on some affairs, said there had been wholesale contempt for human life as well as for the laws of this land and that would cause a sense of outrage.

Most people in this country did not believe that diplomatic immunity should lead to criminal impunity and there should be no inhibitions on the police in investigating this matter resulting from diplomatic considerations.

While the House understands (he went on) that the Nigerian Government is a friendly Commonwealth country trying to deal with a corrupt situation, nevertheless nothing justifies any such activity as this.

Can he comment on the reported hold-up of the British Caledonian aircraft in Nigeria? That action is totally unacceptable. There seems no justification for it in international law and no reasons at all why that action should have been taken. Can he assure us that the strongest protest is being made about the sequestration of that aircraft and say when it is likely to be free?

Mr Brittan: The Foreign Secretary, at his meeting with the Nigerian High Commissioner, protested strongly about the unwarranted detention of the British Caledonian plane, the crew and passengers, and asked for its immediate release. The High Commissioner claimed to have no knowledge of the event but said he would pass the request on to his government.

Our High Commissioner in Lagos is seeing the Nigerian Foreign Minister and the strongest representations for the earliest possible release of the plane are being made.

I entirely endorse what he said about his sense of outrage at this event. We all share that sense of outrage to the full.

None of the people arrested has claimed diplomatic immunity. Inquiries are still at an early stage.

Mr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, said the Government should be able to demonstrate non-involvement if it immediately released the British Caledonian aircraft.

It was necessary to be careful about making too crude a comparison with what happened in the case of Libya.

Mr Brittan said good relations with Nigeria would be immensely lessened if the incident resulted in the British Caledonian plane and ready cooperation with the police, and those investigating this matter.

I certainly (he said) make no comparison between this incident and any other except to say that it is obviously an extremely grave matter for an attempt of this kind to take place. It must be investigated properly and we are entitled to expect the fullest cooperation of everybody, whether they have any diplomatic connections or not, in that process of investigation.

I am not going to prejudge the outcome of the investigation. Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Opposition, C): Mr Dikko is wanted in Lagos on a charge of stealing public funds and it looks as though some misguided people have tried to take the law into their own hands.

Mr Brittan: I am not prepared to speculate. There is an arrangement under the Fugitive Offenders Act which applies to Nigeria. No request has been made a diplomatic bag, any legal proceedings whereby Mr Dikko would be returned. Beyond that it is impossible to go.

Mr Greville Janner (Labour, West): Can he confirm that the crates were marked "diplomatic property"? That is correct and as a crime may constitute a diplomatic bag, why does he say that these crates were outside the Convention when he maintained that the diplomatic bags used in the Libyan incident were within the Convention?

This entire area of diplomatic law is in a disgraceful and gruesome mess. Will he undertake that the Government will seek a change in

the Vienna Convention rather than giving way, as Sir Anthony Acland indicated to the Select Committee on Home Affairs, is now its intention.

Will he undertake that when his Bill on this subject later comes up it will not be blocked by the Government, anonymously or otherwise, in its attempt to get a sense into this area where diplomatic bags can be surveyed and the expression "it is in the bag" ceases to have a new and thoroughly unacceptable dimension?

Mr Brittan: I have nothing to add about our examination both of the Convention, which we indicated would take place, and also of its operation. These crates did not have the visible markings which a diplomatic bag normally has. A courier normally accompanies diplomatic bags, as required by Article 27 (3) of the Vienna Convention, and there was not such a courier.

Mr John Wheeler (Westminster North, C): said there was great outrage and concern among his constituents in Bayswater where this abduction incident originated. Many people were frightened about the behaviour of foreign nationals. They hoped for an assurance that the police would enforce the law of the United Kingdom and that if it was found that the Nigerian High Commission was in any way involved, the appropriate disciplinary action would be forthcoming.

Mr Brittan said the Government had made clear in its response to the events relating to the Libyan case that it would take a serious view of any breach of the Convention.

If there is a profound abuse or breach of the Vienna Convention (he added later) the Government is in no sense powerless to act and has indicated its readiness within the

confines of the Convention to take vigorous action in relation to any missions which have been proved to be guilty of abuses.

Sir John Bages-Davies (Epping Forest, C): Is anyone who appears to be concerned with this outrage listed as a member of the Nigerian Government or any of its agencies? Does this not lend extra urgency to reconsideration of the Vienna Convention?

Mr Brittan: I have nothing to add about our examination both of the Convention, which we indicated would take place, and also of its operation. These crates did not have the visible markings which a diplomatic bag normally has. A courier normally accompanies diplomatic bags, as required by Article 27 (3) of the Vienna Convention, and there was not such a courier.

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conferences of the Convention to take vigorous action in relation to any missions which have been proved to be guilty of abuses.

Mr Brittan: The right response for the Government to take is through a strong line with the High Commission or Embassy involved. It is not reasonable to expect that a "bad apple" exists in any embassy or High Commission that the head of any reputable embassy or High Commission should be the first who would wish to deal with and hand them over to the normal processes of the law.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C): Is it not strange that if the High Commission was not in any way involved in this act that there were representatives of the Commission at the airport when the crates were opened and, if the details are true, that the Nigerian Government should seize the British Caledonian plane as if to have a bargaining point if we take action against its representatives?

If these crates have been appropriately and properly marked, they would never have been opened. Mr Brittan: I have to share his concern that the Nigerian Government, which officially through the High Commissioner, denied any involvement, should simultaneously engage in an act of this kind. It is extremely difficult to explain how the two go hand in hand. I hope this will be put right very soon.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thames Valley, C): History shows that almost every time a military government seizes power there emerges certain ruthless and barbaric elements that set out of control. Until these various mysteries and doubts are cleared up, I suggest to the Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) that a very severe child should enter in our diplomatic relations with Nigeria.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C): This deplorable incident does give rise to the wider question which remains unanswered in Parliament and the public are heartily sick and tired of the repeated commission of offences by people claiming diplo-

macy immunity, such as rape, assault and motorist offences.

Mr Brittan: The right response for the Government to take is through a strong line with the High Commission or Embassy involved. It is not reasonable to expect that a "bad apple" exists in any embassy or High Commission that the head of any reputable embassy or High Commission should be the first who would wish to deal with and hand them over to the normal processes of the law.



Braine: Public getting sick and tired

Convention and the immunity enjoyed by a minority of diplomats who are known for their sleazy offences and anti-social behaviour? Mr Brittan: This incident highlights the concern felt in the country about the operation of the Vienna Convention.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C): This deplorable incident does give rise to the wider question which remains unanswered in Parliament and the public are heartily sick and tired of the repeated commission of offences by people claiming diplo-

British 1c network repairs



## British Telecom to set up network of shops for repairs and bill payment

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

A network of more than 100 shops where subscribers can take their telephones for repair or replacement, pay their bill or complain about service is being established by British Telecom.

The corporation wants to improve the marketing of its services and hopes that subscribers will become more dependent on the telephone network. The high street presence is thought crucial and the gas showrooms system will be used as a model. The first shops should be open by the end of this year.

Mr Nick Kane, Director of marketing at British Telecom, said: "The 1980s will be remembered as the decade when telephone marketing came of age in the UK."

The corporation is running a television advertising campaign designed to encourage more use of the telephone by domestic subscribers. A previous campaign directed at business users generated two and a half times the cost of the campaign in revenue from calls.

The corporation has as yet no indication of the success of the

present campaign, but electronic monitoring devices fitted to five telephone exchanges are measuring surges in telephone use after the advertisements are transmitted.

The shopping network is vital for the corporation if it is to compete against other suppliers of telephone handsets. It is expected that all telephones will eventually be attached to the wall-through a plug and socket. Subscribers will detach their telephone and bring it to the showrooms for service.

British Telecom is keen to introduce itemized telephone bills as soon as possible because it believes that the customer will then have a better appreciation of the cost and value of calls. A trial on itemized bills being conducted in the Bristol area.

Itemized billing is one of a number of new services to be offered to customers by the System X digital exchanges. The whole of Britain will have these exchanges by the end of the decade.

The corporation is experimenting with "semi-electronic"

exchanges. By the end of the summer there will be more than 100 such exchanges, offering eight new services.

Code calling. Frequently-used telephone numbers can be stored at exchange and recalled instantly using a short code. Repeat calls. Short code for redialling number last dialed. Change advice. Dial a number for instant change of call. Reminder calls. Alarm call service.

Call diversion. All incoming calls rerouted by subscriber dialling appropriate number. Call waiting. Subscriber notified of call waiting by an "alert" tone and can then decide which call to take by dialling appropriate code. Three-way calls. Facilities for mini-conferences.

Call barring. Can stop incoming calls and restrict outgoing ones.

A new sales force is attacking the four million telephone business market using north American techniques. It is selling "phone power", a technique designed to encourage business to do their selling and debt-collecting over the telephone.



Smiles all round: The Queen enjoying a cheerful moment during a visit yesterday to the Fairmile Nursing Home run by the Marie Curie Foundation in Edinburgh. And it was with wry amusement that the Queen held up her ink-stained hand after signing the visitors' book at the home. The foundation's fountain pen had been brought specially from London.

## Diagnosis of cruelty to baby challenged

The trial of two parents accused of ill-treating their two-month-old daughter was adjourned yesterday after a consultant paediatrician admitted that he could have misdiagnosed the child's injuries.

Dr John Sills, from Alder Hey hospital, Liverpool, had told the court that the injuries suffered by Kimberly Arthur were classic child abuse, resulting in her being blinded and brain damaged.

Mr John Rowe, QC, for the defence, disputed each diagnosis.

Dr Sills told Chester Crown Court that what he thought was a large skull fracture could have been a natural line.

Mr Rowe said: "I suggest that the swelling of the brain and haemorrhaging were caused by a disease of the brain, such as meningitis."

Mr Rowe suggested that there were no leg fractures. Dr Sills said that he had accepted the opinion of the radiographer.

Mr Rowe said that the fractured collar bone could have been caused accidentally shortly after birth; injuries to the anus could have been caused by constipation; the marks on the foot could have been tiny haemorrhages and the injuries in the mouth could have been caused when tubes were put down her throat.

After the cross-examination Mr Gareth Edwards asked for the trial to be adjourned until Monday so the evidence against the skull fractures could be investigated.

Mrs Lynda Arthur, aged 31, and her husband David, aged 38, a Merchant Navy Officer, from Ness, Wirral, deny a joint charge of cruelty. Mrs Arthur denies intentionally causing grievous bodily harm.

The court has been told that Mr Arthur has a responsible job and the couple, who have been married 10 years, live in excellent circumstances and have unblemished characters.

The trial continues on Monday.

## Blood sale doctor gets 3 years

Dr Mark Patterson, aged 50, former consultant haematologist at the National Heart Hospital, who masterminded a scheme to steal blood for sale as plasma in Denmark, was jailed for three years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

John Harris, aged 44, of Stirling Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex, former chief medical officer and the National Blood Transfusion Service, who supplied some of the blood was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Leslie Dobson, aged 50, of Peterborough Road, Fulham, south-west London, Dr Patterson's laboratory technician who

helped separate the plasma was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

Sentence was postponed on Colin Campbell, aged 57, of Kilm Green, Reading, Berkshire, former director of the British subsidiary of the Danish company concerned. He is in St Bartholomew's Hospital after collapsing in court on Wednesday.

Three of the men were convicted on Thursday after denying conspiring to steal blood from the National Heart Hospital. Dobson had pleaded guilty earlier in the trial. Sir James Miskin, QC, the

Recorder of London, told Dr Patterson, of Cochrane Street, St John's Wood, north-west London, that he had "perpetrated the gravest possible breach of trust. The sentence must show society's abhorrence of profiteering."

The judge added: "I have in mind your good work to the community and that your career as a doctor lies shattered for all time."

He asked for inquiries to be made into Dr Patterson's financial affairs concerning his private properties and assets, with regard to legal aid.

## Vaccine victims given permission to sue DHSS

A High Court judge yesterday gave permission to seven children left with severe brain damage from whooping cough vaccinations to bring action for damages against the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith said the parents of the children were entitled to bring allegations of negligence over advice given to doctors and health authorities by the DHSS.

The judge dismissed an application from the DHSS to have all the claims against them struck out as disclosing no cause of action.

have the department included as a named defendant, along with the vaccine manufacturers and the local health authorities concerned, because they promoted and bought the vaccine and launched a country-wide vaccination campaign.

They said the department was negligent because it failed to warn parents of the dangers until 1974, 17 years after national vaccination was recommended.

The judge ordered the date for the estimated three months' trial to be set for January, 1986, because of the "public importance" of the case.

## Six cleared in Soho credit card case

Six men, well-known figures in Soho's clubland, were cleared of vice charges yesterday at the Central Criminal Court in the "credit cards" case which lasted two months.

The prosecution had alleged that police posing as clients found organized prostitution at some of the clubs and that credit cards were illegally accepted.

After the verdicts one of the defendants, Jean Agius, aged 38, a former journalist who controlled several Soho restaurants and topless bars, complained of a police vendetta against him.

Carroll's Restaurant, the Mystique Club, the Venus, Le Reims, the Directors and the others. He was cleared of conspiring to live off the earnings of prostitution and plotting to defraud credit card companies.

Also acquitted on the same charges were Douglas Gilbert, aged 46, of Greek Street, Soho; Vincent Calleja, aged 52, of Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, south London; John Lukas, aged 34, of Sinclair Road, Kensington, west London; Lewis Ciancio, aged 47, of Hall Road, St John's Wood, north London and Francis Bonetti, aged 38, of Copford Road, Woodford.

## House price rise of 8% forecast

By Christopher Warran, Property Correspondent

House prices in Britain are likely to rise by about 8 per cent on average this year, according to the Halifax Building Society.

Their house price index shows an increase of 6.8 per cent in the 12 months up to last month. The increase between March and June was 3.7 per cent, and so far this year prices have risen by 5.5 per cent.

Building societies are lending at a record level of more than £20 a month, 40 per cent higher than at the same time last year. Since prices have risen by less than this it means that most of the extra money is going to help housebuyers. The number of loans so far this year is more than a fifth higher than in the same period of 1983.

The quarterly regional bulletin shows a widening gap between price movements in different regions. In the past three months prices rose by 2.3 per cent in the West Midlands

and 3.1 per cent in the North-west, while in Greater London the increase was 11.1 per cent, Scotland 10.2 per cent and the South-east 9.5 per cent.

The Halifax figures show that a semi-detached house built before 1939 now costs an average £50,000 in Greater London, compared with £21,000 in East Midlands and £22,000 in Yorkshire.

Mr John Spalding, Halifax chief general manager, said yesterday: "We have all the signs of a healthy housing market: steady demand, a good supply of properties in most areas, and a continued ability by the Halifax to meet the demands of its members. At the same time prices nationally continue to rise only moderately. We foresee no marked acceleration in UK house prices during the remainder of the year."

## Girl of 12 on course for top degree

Ruth Lawrence, an Oxford undergraduate, has completed her first year by gaining Class I Honours in mathematics at the age of 12.

She was among the top candidates in her end of term exams at St Hugh's College. But already she is at home in north Oxford, reading for the second year of her degree. Apart from a few hours at weekends Miss Lawrence plans to work through until next term.

"I don't really want to stop working", she said. "I want to do some more work so I'm slightly ahead of the rest next year."

The moderators' decision means she is on target for a possible first at the end of her three-year course.

Just before sitting her five papers Miss Lawrence took a mock examination at home under strict timing and conditions. "I did well in that so I knew what to expect", she said. "She has no fears about the second year. She plans to continue working eight hours a day or more - in and out of term time and take her final examination with as much ease as her first."

## Unique display of roses

Today sees the beginning of a two-day unique display of roses at the Gardens of the Rose, the headquarters of the Royal National Rose Society at Chiswell Green, St Albans.

Entitled "Brighton Britain with Roses" it is the country's annual rose show and festival staged by the RNRS in conjunction with members of the Rosegrowers Association. Both organizations have outlined their initials on the green turf with roseblooms.

## Statue appeal

A world-wide appeal has been launched to raise £10,000 for a life-sized bronze statue of George Eliot, the Victorian novelist, in her home town of Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The figure will be modelled by John Lettis.

## Little oddity at £38,880

The Western physiognomy of the Dutch merchants who arrived to trade with China struck the Chinese as odd and ridiculous. (Our Sale Room Correspondent writes). They produced porcelain figures of the oddities and several must have been produced from the same mould.

The best known are a pair of figures of a man in wide-brimmed black hat and his wife in a lace cap. Several copies of the woman have survived but the man is now quite a rarity.

The masculine figure (right), decorated in bright colored enamel and gilded, from around 1735, which is 44.5 cms high, came up for sale at Christie's yesterday and sold for £38,880 (estimate £25,000-£35,000) to Michael Hogg, a London dealer.

Sale room, page 4

## Flood of mail advertising

More than 1,084 million items of promotional material were mailed to homes in the United Kingdom last year costing £112m in postage, the Advertising Association.

Total spending on all advertising was more than £3,579m

last year, which exceeded the previous highest amount. Television attracted £110m of advertising, followed by regional newspapers with £817m, national newspapers, £584m and business magazines, £276m.

## Law Society leaders oppose reform

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A campaign by Law Society leaders against proposals for a "root and branch" reform of their constitution gained momentum yesterday with a call by the society's president to solicitors in England and Wales to defeat the move.

In his annual report Sir Christopher Hewson says: "Nothing is perfect but of one thing I am certain: there is not such a state of imperfection at Chancery Lane to begin to justify root and branch reorganization of the society's constitution... on the scale envisaged."

The reforms are being put forward by members of the British Legal Association, a group of about 3,000 solicitors, in their latest attempt to ginger up their professional body at the

next general meeting on July 19. Warning that "inevitably instability would ensue from the proposals under which all council members would have to stand for yearly reelection, the president says that however elected, no council would be more successful in extracting more money for criminal, legal aid from a government dedicated to public spending control, while solicitors were willing to work at the present rate."

He urges all solicitors to use their proxy votes against the proposed reforms and says that if reforms are needed they would be better worked out by the new Law Society special committee, in consultation with the profession.

Ironically the proxy-voting

system, which enables all solicitors - and not just those who attend the meeting - to have a say on the constitutional issue, was achieved after a long campaign waged by the British Legal Association chairman, Mr Stanley Best. And many solicitors see the setting up of the new special committee on the constitution as an attempt by the Law Society to pre-empt his latest campaign.

Mr Best is proposing that the local constituencies, from which all 70 council members are elected, be abolished. Instead council members would have to stand annually for election from the general body of members. The same would apply to the President and Vice-president, at present elected from the council.

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## Appeal judges give backing to tough new parole policy

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Court of Appeal upheld yesterday the new tougher policy of Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, on the granting of parole to drug dealers, murderers and violent offenders.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Griffiths both thought the policy "reasonable", but Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson disagreed.

The appeal of four prisoners who are challenging the legality of the new parole restrictions was dismissed, but they were given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Sir John said he had to take account of the fact that one of the purposes of Mr Brittan's policy statement was to reassure the public Mr Brittan regarded violent crime and drug trafficking as being particularly serious. Lord Justice Griffiths agreed the appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson, dissenting, said the new policy was unlawful because it was inconsistent with the right of every prisoner eligible for parole to have his case considered individually both by the Home Secretary and the Parole Board.

The case, which affects several hundred prisoners, caused disagreement between Lord Justice Parker and Mr Justice Forbes when they delivered judgment in the Divisional Court on May 22.

The policy being challenged was announced by Mr Brittan in a written parliamentary answer on November 30. He then said he had decided to use his discretion over the release of prisoners serving sentences of more than five years for offences of violence or drug trafficking. They would be granted parole only when release under supervision for a few months before the end of the sentence was likely to reduce the long-term risk to the public.

He said: "In 1982 about 240 prisoners sentenced for these offences were recommended for parole before their final review. In future, there will have to be the most compelling reasons before I would agree to parole being granted in such cases."

The case had been brought by Edward Finlay, serving seven years for armed robbery; Roy Hogben, serving a life sentence for murder during an armed robbery; and Roy Honeyman, serving life for murder by stabbing and robbery.

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The case had been brought by Edward Finlay, serving seven years for armed robbery; Roy Hogben, serving a life sentence for murder during an armed robbery; and Roy Honeyman, serving life for murder by stabbing and robbery.

The case, which affects several hundred prisoners, caused disagreement between Lord Justice Parker and Mr Justice Forbes when they delivered judgment in the Divisional Court on May 22.

The policy being challenged was announced by Mr Brittan in a written parliamentary answer on November 30. He then said he had decided to use his discretion over the release of prisoners serving sentences of more than five years for offences of violence or drug trafficking. They would be granted parole only when release under supervision for a few months before the end of the sentence was likely to reduce the long-term risk to the public.

## Pit town is brought to standstill by pickets

By Craig Seton

A van carrying construction workers and two empty police vehicles were overturned in separate incidents yesterday when thousands of striking miners brought traffic to standstill in Selby, North Yorkshire, by "occupying" a tollbridge.

Ten policemen were injured and one was detained in hospital with concussion after several clashes with pickets when the miners tried to stop contractors getting into work at collieries in the new coalfield. Three miners were arrested.

The police vehicles were overturned at Whitmore colliery, where there were reported to be 3,000 pickets. Another 1,500 were at North Selby pit and several hundred at other sites.

Striking miners outside Llanwern Steelworks in South Wales were taking photographs yesterday to identify haulage firms taking supplies into the plant. The Press Association reports.

Firms from the Midlands, Gloucestershire and Bristol are working with several South Wales lorry companies supplying Llanwern.

Fourteen drivers working for Marlyn Hazell Transport, a local firm, were yesterday excluded from the Transport and General Workers' Union after a disciplinary meeting of the union's regional committee.

TGWU officials are liaising with the South Wales NUM to compile a list of all firms and drivers ferrying thousands of tons of coal iron ore through the picket lines. More union expulsions are likely and drivers face fines of up to £20 each time they pass the Port Talbot or Llanwern picket lines.

The NUM decision to confront the police with mass picketing and intimidation during the strike had disgraced the entire Labour movement, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday.

He said: "Those who detest, as everyone must, the wretched repetition day after day of clashes between pickets and police should turn their anger against the union leadership which deliberately choose to run the dispute in this way."

A South Yorkshire pit will not re-open when the strike ends because damage has been so severe.

About 125 jobs will be lost at the Highgate colliery. All the men will be either given jobs at other pits or take voluntary redundancy.

What in fact it does is to push in front of the poor in the queue for health care," he said.

The conference earlier passed a resolution without debate calling for a halt in the production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons. The lack of time for debate of this and other matters gave rise to criticism of the way the Methodist Church conducts its business.

In international affairs, the conference expressed its continuing support for the Gleanings agreement on the sporting boycott of South Africa, but an attempt to change the church's own financial investment policy towards South Africa was defeated.

An attempt to commit the church to support the miners' strike was modified into an expression of concern at the effects the strike was having on the social fabric, and the effect pit closures would have on local communities.

MP's paternity case adjourned for blood test

A six-month-old boy at the centre of a paternity dispute involving Mr Gerry Bermingham, Labour MP for St Helens South, is suffering from a heart murmur and cannot undergo safely a blood test, Liverpool Magistrates' Court was told yesterday. The case was adjourned.

Miss Janet Ball, aged 24, a nurse, from Whiston, Merseyside, alleges that Mr Bermingham is the father of the child.

Afterwards Mr Rex Makin, Miss Ball's solicitor, said: "We understand Mr Bermingham has a rare blood group."

"He is attempting to do the honourable thing by Miss Ball. But it is understandable that he would want to make as certain as possible that he is the father of the baby first."

No such paternity sentence, or anything remotely like it, appears in any of the six finalists for the first Betty Trask Literary Award for a first romantic or traditional novel, whose winner will be known on Tuesday. Nearly 300 entries have been received for a first prize of £12,500 and five consolation awards of £1,000 each.

Miss Trask, a comparatively unknown romantic novelist who died in January last year, left a large part of her estate to the Society of Authors to establish an annual award for first novels by authors under 35 years of age.

Mark Le Fanu, secretary of the Society of Authors, said yesterday it had never been Miss Trask's intention to limit the award to the bodice-ripper style of romantic fiction published in some women's magazines, and typified by the output of the hugely successful romantic publishers Mills and Boon.

"The award is for romantic or traditional first novels, which covers most genres except the experimental, Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy would have been eligible, but James Joyce would not."

Mr Peter Grosvenor, literary editor of the *Daily Express* and chairman of the panel of judges, said that a number of "bodice-ripper" manuscripts had been submitted, but had been given short shrift by the judges. "We went for novels which were real, and had some integrity. Obviously, as we are restricted to first novels by authors under 35, the standard is unlikely to be as high as in the Booker Prize, but we have not been too disappointed."

"We have a very worthwhile shortlist of six books, three of which have found publishers and three of which, alas, have not."

The shortlisted novels are: *The Parish of Rich Women* by Frances Buchan, grandson of Scottish novelist John Buchan, and a *Financial Times* foreign correspondent. A journalist who cannot come to terms with the fast life of drugs and endless parties in London, returns to report the war in Beirut. (To be published next week by Hamish Hamilton).

*Winter Journey* by Ronald Frame, a full-time writer from Glasgow. A girl aged 19 travels with her diplomat parents across Europe in the winter of 1963, and 20 years later examines how their divorce has affected her life. (To be published in October by Bodley Head).

*Playing Fields in Winter* by Helen Harris, a freelance magazine researcher from London. The story of a white girl's love affair with an Indian, which is wrecked on the rocks of the cultural divide. (unpublished).

The *Disinherited* by Gareth Jones, a theatre and television director whose credits include the Granada comedy series *Bress*. Set in 18th-century Wales, Graffyd, the hero, claims magical powers to free the valley of a tyrant landlord and stop the threatened arrival of the Prince of Wales and his Highlanders in Wales. (Published 1981 by Gollancz).

*Gold Showers* by Clare Nonhebel, a schoolteacher's wife from Ealing. The story of a young widow grieving for her husband. (unpublished).

*The Devil's Looking Glass* by Simon Ross, a Cambridge postgraduate student. Described by those who have read it as "a domestic novel, C. P. Snow with an element of mystery and witchcraft" (unpublished).



Miners' strike: A lorry driver wears a crash helmet to prevent identification as he drives through pickets at Llanwern steel works yesterday, and Mr Ian MacGregor waves as he leaves talks with miners' leaders in London.

## NUM lifts blacking of Coalite fuel plant

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The National Union of Mineworkers has lifted its blacking of supplies to the Coalite smokeless fuel plant at Grimthorpe in south Yorkshire after being persuaded that a lengthy production stoppage could seriously damage the plant and threaten the jobs of the 300 workers there.

The workers at the plant have been laid off for almost three weeks, but will return to work on Monday as pithead stocks from Grimthorpe Colliery near-by are allowed into the plant for treatment.

Ironically, Coalite's chief executive is Mr Eric Varley, the former Labour minister who was involved in the original talks on the *Plan for Coal*. However, Mr Varley has not been involved in local negotiations with the NUM, leaving

the Coalite sales team to put forward the company's case to the union for dispensation from picketing.

Coalite's other plant in Yorkshire near Doncaster has also been badly hit by supply disruptions but its third plant in

Concessionary coal for NCB employees	
Area	Annual allowance (tonnes)
Scotland	7.15 (9.14 if on ballot at place of work)
Northumberland	10.05 (plus 1 if allowed in sacks)
Yorkshire	7.45
North Yorkshire	8.14
South Yorkshire	8.5
Nottinghamshire	10.05
Lancashire	10.05
South Wales	8.0
North Wales	8.15
South Wales	7.17
Wiltshire	7.5
Worcestershire	7.52
West	8.9

Nottinghamshire has been supplied by the pits working there.

Coalite kept production at its two Yorkshire plants during the first 12 weeks of the miners' strike at about a third of normal levels by using its stocks and has been able to meet the limited summer demand. The company relies solely on British coal and is among the National Coal Board's largest customers.

Some production from the Grimthorpe works when it restarts on Monday will be destined for delivery to miners under the concessionary coal scheme. Miners normally are supplied with coal from their own pits under the scheme, but those who live in smokeless areas are supplied with Coalite fuel or brands from the NCB's own smokeless fuels divisions.

The concessionary scheme is administered area-by-area by

the NUM and is based on an agreement made with pit owners before nationalisation. The original concept was to allow miners coal to provide a hot bath when they returned from work in the days before pitheads were built with baths and shower facilities. For the past four years the "perk" has been taxable when an individual's earnings exceeded £8,300 a year.

Concessionary coal is granted to all NCB staff who are householders and on a few occasions a cash alternative is offered.

The deliveries are organized by the NUM and the concessionary coal given to widows and retired miners - six tonnes a year under a national agreement - is provided from a pool into which each worker contributes a share of his annual allowance.

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## ITV decides to pull out of Olympics coverage

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the television technicians' union, ACTT, yesterday described as madness the ITV network decision to withdraw from coverage of the Olympic Games which open in Los Angeles on August 3.

The companies and the union failed to agree on the number of production assistants who should go with the ITV team of 65, half of whom are ACTT members. The union wanted three, and the companies agreed to two, though they said even those were unnecessary.

Mr John Calvert, industrial relations director of the Independent Television Companies Association, denied that the announcement of withdrawal was a negotiating move to bring the union into line.

"The decision is now taken," he said. "The only way that will change will be a change of heart on the union's part that demonstrates we are able at critical times like this, with so much at stake, to make agreements with an element of compromise."

Mr Sapper said he hoped the companies collectively would change their minds.

"It's the silly season... it's madness," he said. "This is a £5½m programme - not £1½m as reported - which will have wide national and international coverage."

"We are saying we need those assistants. We are not asking for six, although there is a case for more. The point is that we are the professionals - we create the programmes and we feel the programme value of the Olympics merits these extra people."

Negotiations began in March and all arrangements were completed. Two weeks ago the ITCA, recognizing a genuine difference of opinion with the union, offered to compromise on two assistants. We hoped the union would move towards us, but they were not prepared to do that," Mr Calvert said.

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High and dry: A Devon farming family have been left without water because of the drought.

Mr Tom Stevens and his family have to make regular trips to the Mole river near their home to fill up milk churns with water after their private reservoir ran dry.

Apart from the Stevens' farmhouse three cottages which house members of the family and farm workers are also affected by the drying up of the reservoir. They share the meagre supply brought up from the river.

Northern Ireland is experiencing some of the worst drought conditions. A hosepipe ban has been in force for several weeks, rivers and reservoirs are at very low levels and many heath and forest areas tinder-dry. More than 120 acres of forest were destroyed by fire

crops are threatened. In most of Cornwall and parts of Devon water for swimming pools and car washes has been banned.

Wessex Water Authority which covers most of the central south coast, obtains most of its water from underground and has abundant supplies.

The Greater London Council had shared those views. "It believed that a building of great merit would be added to the city scheme; that the square would improve the setting of Mansion House and of Lutyens' Midland Bank; and that the scheme would add much to this part of the city in civic design terms."

Mr Stephen Marks, the inspector presiding at the inquiry, will draw up a report for the Secretary of State for the Environment. Mr Patric Jenkin, of a decision is likely to be taken early next year.



## Mondale weighs odds as feminist lobby presses for woman on the ticket

From Nicholas Ashford  
Washington

Mr Walter Mondale has women very much on his mind as he prepares to choose his vice-presidential running mate: so much so, in fact, that he felt the need to suggest earlier this week, albeit very discreetly, that he is beginning to get a little fed up with the pressure he is coming under from women's organizations.

He has already interviewed two women, Mrs Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of San Francisco and Representative Geraldine Ferraro of New York, yesterday saw a third, Governor Martha Layne Collins of Kentucky. By comparison, he has so far interviewed only one white male, one Hispanic and two blacks as possible running mates.

The National Organization of Women (NOW), the biggest feminist organization in the country, passed a resolution last weekend warning him they might initiate a potentially embarrassing fight at the Democratic Party convention in San Francisco later this month, if he fails to nominate a woman.

Mrs Jussu Goldsmith, the head of NOW, has alluded to the power that she and her cohorts will wield at that convention — half of the 3,933 delegates will be women and more than 400 of them members of NOW.

Three days after the NOW resolution was passed, a del-



Mrs Geraldine Ferraro

egation of 23 women flew to his home in St Paul, Minnesota, to urge him to select a woman, saying it would "guarantee success in November". But will it?

The raw figures suggest that placing a woman on the ticket might be the best way Mr Mondale can narrow the huge gap which exists between him and President Reagan. Women comprise 51 per cent of the population and 54 per cent of the electorate.

Possibly as many as nine million more women than men will vote in the November election. In 1980 President Reagan's margin of victory was only 8.4 million votes.

But would a woman in the number two spot necessarily have the same mobilizing effect among women voters as the Rev Jesse Jackson's candidature has had on black voters? Many women think it would. According to Mrs Carol Bellamy, president of the New York City Council and a member of the

delegation which visited Mr Mondale this week, it would "mobilize millions of women who are now outside, not involved in the campaign".

A number of polls have shown that Mr Mondale attracts substantially more support among women than Mr Reagan does. In fact, one of the most recent indicated that the President's support among women, who tend to regard him as being too macho and paternalistic, had plummeted as low as 39 per cent. These figures are causing headaches for the President's strategists who are carrying out their own campaign to broaden Mr Reagan's appeal among women.

Several polls have also shown that putting a woman on the ticket would attract the support, not just of Democratic women, but of independents and liberal Republicans as well.

However, a recent *New York Times/CBS News* poll revealed that the advantages and disadvantages of having a woman vice-presidential candidate would cancel each other out, that for every new woman voter new there would be a male voter lost.

Conservative Southern Democrats, in particular, are believed to be resistant to the idea of a female Vice-President. Yet it is in the South, particularly Texas, that the key battles of the 1984 election will be fought.



## Unrepentant Molotov forgiven at 94

From Richard Owen, Moscow

"Good heavens," said one Western diplomat when told that Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, Stalin's Foreign Minister, had been readmitted to the Communist Party. "I thought he was dead."

Mr Molotov, with his pince-nez and hard-faced stare, is so firmly identified with the Stalinist era that it came as a shock to many to discover that he was not only alive, but commanded enough respect in the present leadership to be rehabilitated.

Mr Molotov, who served Stalin loyally throughout the terror and purges of the 1930s and 1940s, was ousted by Khrushchev in 1957.

Mr Molotov was associated with a Politburo faction which plotted — unsuccessfully — to overthrow Khrushchev in 1957. He was sent to Mongolia as ambassador, and subsequently to Vienna as Soviet delegate to

the International Atomic Energy Agency before being expelled from the party in 1961.

Until recently, Mr Molotov could be seen walking his dog near the Kremlin or reading at the Lenin Library. He has never repeated of his hardline views, and still believes Stalin was right.

Born with the name Scriabin (he was related to Aleksandr Scriabin, the composer) he took the name "Molotov," meaning hammer in Russian, and hammered Stalin's real and imaginary enemies as Prime Minister from 1930 on. In 1939, as Foreign Minister, he signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Ribbentrop.

Two years later, he announced the Nazi invasion on the radio. At the postwar conferences, Mr Molotov negotiated with what Churchill called "a smile like the Siberian winter".

## Gallic pride unstitched by experts at Bayeux

Bayeux (AFP) — France's greatest national treasure, the 1,000-year-old Bayeux Tapestry, was made in England, French experts here have acknowledged for the first time.

The tapestry depicts the Norman invasion of England in 1066. Previously, it was generally considered to have been woven by the ladies at the court of Queen Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror.

M Jean de la Varenne, the French historian who died in 1950, first put forward the theory that it was made in England. This was never formally accepted, although a plaque next to the tapestry mentioned the possibility.

Over the past six months the tapestry has been carefully cleaned and repaired by five women, four top restorers and an art historian. They unsewed its lining to examine it stitch by stitch and photographed the entire reverse side. As a result, the experts have had to change their minds.

"Inconceivably it was designed and woven in an establishment in England, which alone possessed the skilled workers, famous throughout Europe, able to carry out such a masterpiece," one of them said here yesterday.

The tapestry is now exhibited behind bullet-proof glass at a controlled temperature and can be moved into a blast-proof concrete bunker in 70 seconds.

## West asked to curb chemical exports

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The United Nations Environment Programme, which has its Headquarters here, is pressing Western countries to tighten controls on the increasing volume of exports of dangerous chemicals, now blamed for thousands of deaths every year in Third World countries.

The organization is calling on governments to enforce a new notification system for exports of pesticides and other chemicals banned or restricted in their countries of manufacture.

For the first time, a formal system of information exchange is being introduced through the UN agency, to ensure that Third World countries import-

ing these chemicals know the risks involved in using them.

Under the plan, a country which has banned or restricted the use of a chemical substance will be required to inform the destination country of these details when exporting the chemical.

Mr Peter Sand, head of the agency's legal section, said here yesterday that exports of dangerous chemicals had increased greatly in recent years, although they are now banned in most countries manufacturing them.

It is estimated, for instance, that West Germany exports 90 per cent of the pesticides it produces.

## P2 scandal minister ready to go

From John Earle  
Rome

Signor Pietro Longo, Secretary of Italy's Social Democratic Party, who is under attack in the affair of the banned P2 Masonic lodge, had decided to resign as Minister of the Budget.

In an interview yesterday with a Milan newspaper, he said he was prepared to make a personal sacrifice and go, provided it did not bring down Signor Bettino Craxi's five-party coalition.

This was in contrast to an earlier opinion that, if he had to leave, the coalition would collapse with him. He added in the interview: "I have been, and remain, Bettino's best friend".

Parliament's commission of inquiry into the lodge and its future grandmaster, Signor Licio Gelli, has decided that a list of 962 members found at Signor Gelli's Tuscan villa was authentic. Signor Longo's name was on it, though he has always denied belonging.

His departure will raise the question of whether others on the list and still in public life should also resign.

They include Signor Francesco Malfatti, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry, Signor Michele Principe, chairman of the public telecommunications corporation, a dozen MPs, a judge of the Constitutional Court, and more than 100 officers in the armed forces.

## Wife vetoes exhuming of Aquino

From Keith Dalton  
Manila

The eight-month commission of inquiry into the murder of Benigno Aquino, the Philippine opposition leader, ended yesterday without resolving medical claims that he may have been shot twice, and not once as the military contend.

The commission's last-minute appeal to the Aquino family for permission to exhume and reexamine his remains was rejected by his widow, Mrs Corason Aquino.

The commission, set up by President Marcos, will go into closed session to evaluate the evidence gathered at hearings in Manila, Tokyo and Los Angeles.

Among the 185 witnesses called by the inquiry were the Prime Minister, Mr Cesar Virata, the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the armed forces' Chief of Staff, General Fabian Ver, and the President's wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos.

Mr Aquino, the chief political rival to President Marcos, was killed at Manila airport while in military custody, after returning home from three years' self-imposed exile in the United States.

● MARSHALS INQUIRY: The Philippine Defence Ministry has ordered an investigation into questionable killings by so-called secret marshals, the police-military force assigned to rid Manila of criminals.

## Murderer of model faces hearing on his sanity

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

The jury that on Thursday convicted Marvin Pancoast of having brutally murdered former model Vicki Morgan, the ex-mistress of Alfred Bloomington, a member of President Reagan's kitchen cabinet, will on Monday begin hearing testimony to decide whether or not Pancoast is insane.

A second mini-trial will begin in Van Nuys Superior Court, California, with the defence trying to prove that the 34-year-old unemployed Pancoast was insane. He pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, but the jury of 10 women and two men convicted him of first-degree murder after deliberating for less than five hours.

The jury ruled that Pancoast bludgeoned Miss Morgan to death with a baseball bat in her flat in the San Fernando Valley district of Los Angeles last July 7. It rejected the defence's contention that another person killed Morgan in an effort to silence her.

Even after the verdict, one of the defence lawyers, Mr Char-

les Mathews, declared "Vicky was killed because she had tapes showing her having sex with high government officials. She planned to use the tapes for blackmail."

The so-called "sex tapes" were never presented by the defence. Lawyers for Miss Morgan contended that while she was the long-time mistress of the late Bloomington, who died in 1982, she also had affairs with senior officials of the Reagan administration. Bloomington, a close friend of the Reagans, was also a member of the President's circle of friends and advisers.

When the verdict was read late on Thursday, Pancoast began to cry.

## Pilots killed

Munich (AP) — A West German Tornado fighter-bomber crashed into a field near the Munich-Salzburg autobahn yesterday, killing the pilot and co-pilot, police said.

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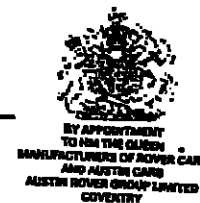
"Suddenly the calm expanse of the lake burst on our gaze, and our months on the savings trail were at an end."







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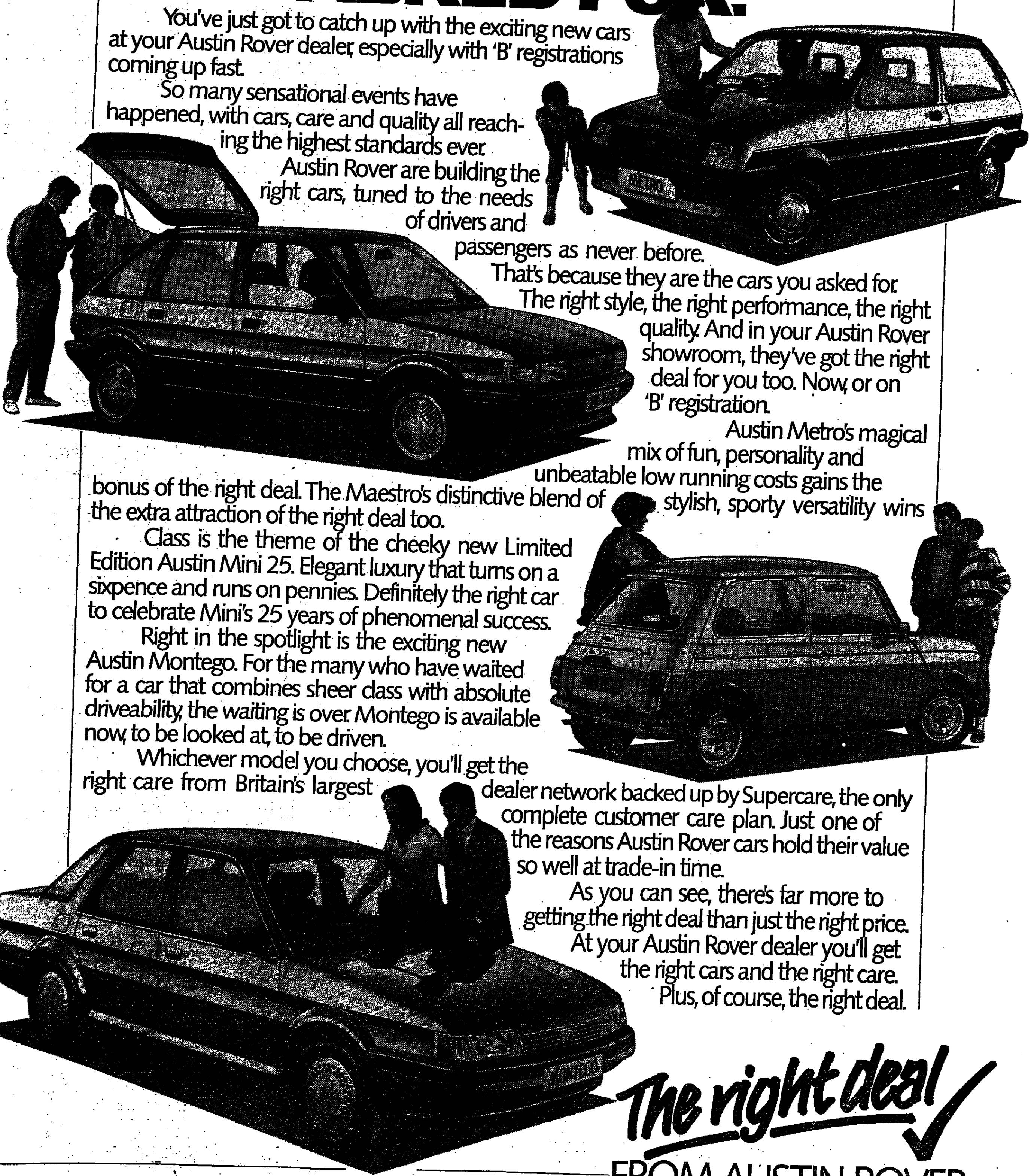
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FROM AUSTIN ROVER—





## THE ARTS

## Concerts

## Stating the obvious

Nash  
Ensemble/Friend  
Wigmore Hall

David Matthews's Clarinet Quartet, given its first performance by the Nash Ensemble on Wednesday, was so obvious that I think I must have missed the point. The nine-minute first movement grows from a hiccuping, uncertain fourth on the clarinet to a kind of double variation in which this figure becomes ever more confident while a slow, glassy harmonic sequence for the strings alternates with it. At the end, the two overlap. The trouble is, they never quite interact: they sit side by side and do not seem, as in a great double variation, to be like Haydn's F minor/major for keyboard, to act as tension and resolution or question and answer.

The harmonic language, based on fourths and fifths, is clear, open, but a little dry. In the more spiky second movement, the predominant interval changes to a minor third, chirruped by the clarinet until a

reminiscence of the first movement returns - but again, there is no convincing organic reason why this should happen. The writing for clarinet (well played by Michael Collins except for one violently loud high-register *piantissimo*) is effective but dominated by a too-easy reliance on figures that swoop up and down its register.

Matthews's piece might have seemed more than merely harmless had not the concert (which also included Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony in Weyern's arrangement and the *Ode to Napoleon Bonaparte*, declaimed David Wilson-Johnson as if he really believed in it) begun with Simon Holt's *Era Madruga*. This 12-minute evocation of the violent world of a Latin poem seemed to me a marvellously atmospheric, superbly imagined collage of flitting visions, half-heard melodies flickering across the instruments, culminating in a terrific piano cadenza and ending with an eerie dancing unison, rudely cut off. Real imagination, real passion, real music.

Nicholas Kenyon

Harries/Bowen  
Purcell Room

Just as in the first recital of this series, last week, Kathryn Harries and Merion Bowen gave a programme that belied their chosen title, "Women's Voices". Again what we heard was the traditional male view, that he is the hero, she the worshipper. That having been said, the collection of sensual songs assembled here came from the more adventurous side of the repertoire. Others would do well to emulate.

It took a year's work for Bowen to unearth the score of Roberto Gerhard's Op 1, the song cycle *L'Infantement meravellos de Shahrazada*, written (in Catalan) in 1917. His efforts were heard to be thoroughly worth while, giving us a fascinating glimpse into the formative style of the great individualist.

The figure of Brahms towers over this music, reflected chiefly in the opulent broadness of Gerhard's phrasing. Yet already Gerhard asserts a tremendous personal style, especially harmonically. Miss Harries generally coped well with the strenuous demands of

the vocal writing, though there were moments where the control was not quite absolute.

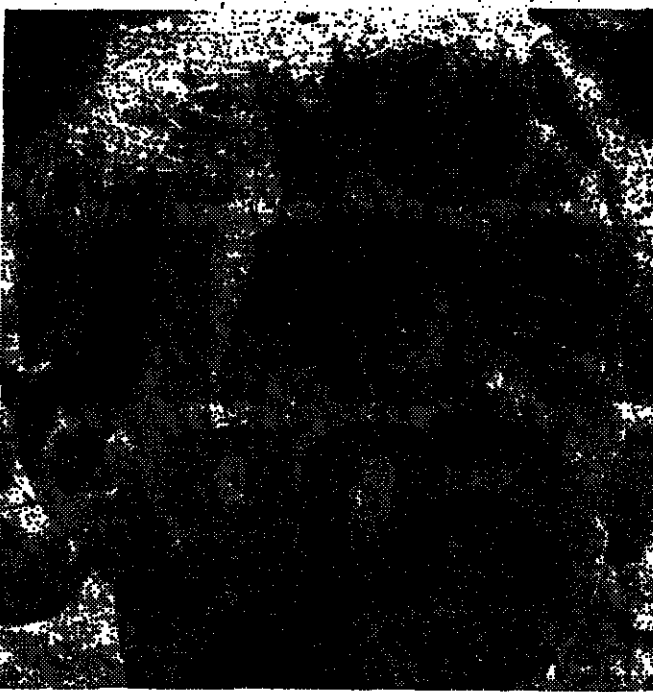
She was an ideal match, though, for Brian Dennis's *Three Songs for the Lady Pan*, a brief sequence composed in 1978 to words by Wang Wei, a major poet of the Tang dynasty. In these delicate miniatures, which concern the fall from grace of a courtesan, Dennis's manner is highly derivative. His Messiaen-like twinkles in the second poem create a haunting motionlessness, while the first and last settings, despite their diatonicism, are full of fresh ideas, and the text is fused happily with the music.

Szymanowski's *Six Songs of a fairy princess* combined sensuality with touches of piquant humour, but Miss Harries was perhaps at her best in Chausson's refined and hypnotic *Chanson perdue* and in Debussy's softly erotic *Chanson de Blaise*. The smallish sound of her slightly husky voice reflected touchingly the slow awakening of sexuality in the first Debussy song, "La Flûte", while her singing of the final "Le Tombeau des nades" sent desolate shivers surging through the spine.

Stephen Pettitt

## Russian TV at the NFT

## A very serious view of the world



Soviet screening: Victor Anisimov (above) in *Don't Shoot the White Swans* and the Russian Alice in Wonderland

Between four and six each afternoon a television set is on in London University's School of Slavonic and East European Studies, but few students cluster round. Peak-time viewing from Moscow, received there by satellite, is by British standards a pretty deadly affair.

Wryly illustrating the point this week, a lecturer at the school played me a tape of a typical edition of *Vremya*, the Soviet equivalent of *Nine O'Clock News* and *News at Ten*. After some military music and film of the Kremlin, Chernenko was seen tottering towards a group of Greek politicians with a bewildered expression on his face.

The ensuing 35 minutes were indeed sombre, although nothing untoward had happened that day. Openings of a factory and a sports complex, and the unveiling of a statue in Budapest took their place alongside painfully protracted statements about nuclear talks (delivered from notes, with many a hard stare at the camera). A very old man lectured a hall full of comatose and elderly farm-workers. A Greenham Common-style demonstration in West Germany was shown, with long close-ups of clasped hands. Then cycling, ice-hockey and a long report on blizzard damage.

In America, then, the Russian weather, with maximum and minimum temperatures given for each of the Soviet republics in turn.

The American blizzards occurred several days previously. Sensational events, the lecturer observed, were never shown till the appropriate line had been decided on. "Nothing is put out without people being told exactly why it's there." We then saw a jazz programme, which began with a 10-minute lecture from an elderly man in an armchair.

*Vremya*, watched by a very large proportion of Russia's very large audience, is repeated at eight the following morning, and again at nine on all channels. The Russian equivalent of BBC1 is at all times didactic and "safe": even those Western observers most determined to take a charitable view commiserate with the turgidness of its presentation.

Terry Doyle, producer of the BBC's acclaimed *Language and People* series on Russia and Greece, is probably the nearest thing to an enthusiast one could hope to find in London. This week, as part of its TV 84 celebration, the National Film Theatre is presenting a mini-festival of Soviet television, which Doyle has compiled.

Wednesday saw a vigorous (if crudely dubbed) treatment of the Münchhausen story, in which the bewigged baron was made the mouthpiece for some heavy retrospective satire, and they also saw a slow, lush version of a Dostoevsky tale about provincial brutishness. One sensed what Andrei Tarkovsky had been reacting against. Last night saw a Russian version of *Sherlock Holmes* and a detective series set in postwar Moscow. At an all-day session today a number

of films will be shown, including *Don't Shoot the White Swans*, a contemporary rural tragedy, and a version of *Alice in Wonderland* (soon to be broadcast by the BBC) and also a special compilation made by the State Broadcasting Organization.

Doyle thinks some important points habitually get overlooked: notably the quality and quantity of Russian programmes on ecology and natural history, as well as the seriousness with which the Russian broadcasters

take music and literary adaptations (including versions of Dickens and Hardy imported from Britain). Western commentators, he says, forget the diversity of the audience which Soviet broadcasters must encompass - 15 sub-languages - and consequently the significance of regional programming. "We send films abroad to show that we exist", he was told by the chairman of Estonian television.

Michael Church

## Television - back at home

The Games in Question (Channel 4) looked at the Olympic Games "in crisis" although the crisis seems to be almost as old as the Olympic tradition as the marathon. Since the original aim of the Games was, as last night's programme explained, to train warriors for battle, the aspirations towards international amity and understanding were perhaps ill-judged from the start. There have been more specific problems, too - in de Coubertin's first Olympics, various foreign embassy officials were brought in to fill up the numbers, and the races were run in the wrong direction. Such errors would not occur today, of course, since the Games have achieved a pre-

cision and efficiency appropriate to a television spectacle. It is estimated that some 1,500 million people will be watching the games from Los Angeles and, as a result, money has become the single most noticeable element in the proceedings. In 1968 the North American television rights to the Mexico Olympics were sold for \$4 million; the cost of the Los Angeles Games has risen to 225 million dollars, and that of the Seoul Games in 1988 is calculated to be 500 million. No wonder the athletes try so hard. The myth of the Games as untarnished by money or nationalism is, in that sense, like the myth of the "good old days" - a convenient but still

Dennis Hackett

## Radio

## Colourless Sunday

I don't know what you expect of a colour supplement. Sunday after Sunday, I find a publication in which it's a job to discover the feature material among the advertising. Could it possibly be that Radio 4's new Sunday morning sequence, *The Colour Supplement* (producers: Peter Estlin, Virginia Henry, Simon Shaw), would conform to the same pattern? In one way obviously not: no advertising - or only in the form of trails for later stages of the programme. So what about the rest?

What has become of the caution that prevented me from writing about *Rollercoaster* after only one appearance? I suppose it was that the first edition made reasonable showing and ought to have the benefit of any doubts. Furthermore there was no question of my willingness to listen to subsequent editions. So far as *The Colour Supplement* is concerned, however, I am going to be hard put to screwing my courage to switch on tomorrow at 11.15. With the exception of two, possibly three items, this was an hour and three quarters of dross.

The two that certainly did well were "A Year of My Own" in which Jessica Mitford remembered how she spent 1937, and "Tribes of Britain" where we followed Nigel Farrell on a visit to the City - this was a well-made, light and thoroughly entertaining small feature. "Right to Reply", Francis Pym defending himself against criticisms of his recent book, was worthy of a little dull.

After that it was downhill all the way. "International Exchange", a link-up with Sydney and New York, might as well not have been there; "Private Lives" gave us yet another run - in two parts for heaven's sake! - of the old familiar media act on Cyril Smith and family, with Nicholas Parsons unattractive as the bonhomous interviewer. I shall treasure an inspired slip in the unending discussions on the women's status which turned "borek" into "beresk", a word the English language has long been in need of.

There was also a category of superdross and Peter Noble's unctuous "Showbiz Column" had no difficulty qualifying for it, while "Stop Press", a distinctly sharp glance at the week's news, was a strong contender and probably ought to be admitted. One quarrel I have with the printed type of colour supplement is its presentation which seems for ever to be trying to justify me into the belief that I shall really be missing something if I don't read it. I thought that Sarah Kennedy last Sunday came close to achieving the sound equivalent of this.

But there have been happier things and one of them is Alexander Walker's Film Star (Radio 4, Thursdays; producer, Wendy Clay) in which this eminent critic is turning in a series of portraits of legendary Hollywood names. If not to be compared with the studies of jazz musicians, of which Russell Davies and David Perry have recently provided two more superb examples on Radio 3 (*Le Silver Bell*, June 22; *John Coltrane*, June 29) they are at least junior members of the same league. Then there was When Shall We Be Quite Alone? (Radio 4, July 1; producer, Adrian Mourby in Wales), a study of Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby who, despite strenuous family discouragement, eloped in 1778 from Ireland to Llangollen where they lived as privately as scandal would allow in the enchantment of a passionate and devoted friendship. Elizabeth Mavor's programme, recorded very largely on location if I heard aright, created a most touching atmosphere of secrecy and profound loving attachment. Well worth a repeat.

David Wade

● Rudolf Barshai, founder of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and currently principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, is to be the new music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. He takes up the post in September next year.

● Glyndebourne Touring Opera's 1984 repertoire consists of *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Così fan tutte* - the two Mozart operas with which the original 1934 festival opened - and a double bill of *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Higgly Piggly Pop!* by Oliver Knussen. The last of these, commissioned by Glyndebourne by the BBC, receives its premiere. The tour opens with a week of performances at Glyndebourne itself, from October 9 to 13, followed by a week each in Oxford, Southampton, Plymouth, Manchester and Norwich.

## Theatre

## The perception of wisdom

Anton Chekhov  
Cottesloe

Alone in the study of his villa, Anton Pavlovich sleeplessly awaits the "disgusting punishment" of death, which overtook him 80 years ago this month. Most of the furniture, like Mme Ranevsky's, is sheeted as if in shrouds; and packed trunks sit ready, as though for imminent departure. He speaks of his travels, of his terrible summer observing the penal island of Sakhalov, of his pleasure in fishing and horticulture, of his short stories and (briefly) his plays - which Tolstoy, he wryly notes, thought "even worse than Shakespeare's".

Michael Pennington himself compiled this one-man entertainment, subtle, seemingly insubstantial and strangely elusive in flavour. It makes a very oblique companion piece to the National Theatre's forthcoming production of Chekhov's first full-length play (*Wild Honey*, otherwise known as *Platonov*).

The flow of his conversation is loosely biographical and it ends with the famous glass of champagne which immediately preceded his death, but there is no perceptible structure. Yet, drawing doubtless on Mr Pennington's long study of Russia as well as her greatest playwright, it has a haunting quality.

Chekhov's vivid perception, expressed with perfect simplicity, of sensation from the

sight of a peasant woman kneading bread in sunlight to disagreeable feelings on reading one's own work (like drinking cabbage soup that a cockroach has swum in), gives the actor a text as exquisitely written as Max Adrian's one-man Shaw or Roy Dotrice's John Aubrey. Pennington claims that every word is Chekhov's own, though I thought the story about Chekhov's grocer father selling oil in which a rat had drowned came from a brother's account.

He resists the temptation of the obvious, and knowing references are discreet. Once there is a glimpse of Braz's portrait which depicted him "like a Frenchman" (very like Russett, if only he knew) and eating would you believe, cherries; later he shows us agronomic maps like *Astrov's in Uncle Vanya*.

It is exquisite, and it leaves one unsatisfied. Oscar Wilde, using those words of a cigarette, added: "What more can one want?", but you do want more: perhaps more about his youth, about his wit, about the theatre. What you get is contact with a remarkable man, wise and complete (though his passion and volatility are regrettably dimmed), with a sharp perception of what life can be and what it too often is.

The only two sustained extracts from his memorably one of a prison flogging, the other an exquisite short story about a painfully conversing country couple who turn out to have been married 12 years.



Michael Pennington as Chekhov

The extracts do, finally, bring you back to the plays; for, as he says, people have dinner, that's all they do, but during that time their happiness is established or they fall apart. His art needs no grand gestures, and Mr Pennington's quietly telling performance understands that.

Anthony Masters

Six for Gold  
King's Head

In the tiny King's Head space, Warner Brown's new musical *Six for Gold*, with music by Michael Reed, has to contend with intimacy instead of razzle-dazzle, versatile doubling in place of huge line ups, and a single piano standing in for the big orchestra. To turn these restrictions into virtues, and not for one musical but six, played as two triple bills, shows remarkable ingenuity.

The whole structure whirls backwards and forwards through time, and takes its titles from the sleeping rhyme "one for sorrow, two for joy..." In the first part we shift from nostalgia for the music halls, complete with Dan Leno pantomime, via Wipplidewitz's waxworks, and land up on the stage of London theatre. The thin thread of characters reappearing in very different vignettes seems to bind it all together and the themes of what time does to people and aspects of showbiz seem to emerge.

Part two takes us to the United States (giving this a mid-Atlantic, look out Broadway, air) and nostalgia for vaudeville. Ah yes, part two is vaguely an American parallel of part one. But what's this? Suddenly for the final two pieces we are on top of skyscrapers, talking about money, the vast dreams of the 1930s, and even end up with a towering inferno. Five for silver, six for gold.

And then light dawns. The never-mentioned seven secret that must never be told. All the conundrums of relationships witnessed have involved what the revelation of secrets does to people's lives.

The cast are as accomplished as they are versatile, doubling almost thirty roles between the five of them. Picking out names is unfair, but Rosemary Leach, so often typecast as the mummy comedienne in television sitcoms, shows she can play everything from a shy journalist, to a hard-nosed businesswoman, and in between times belt out a Sophie Tucker number, complete with bump and grind. And Peter Land is

equally multi-talented in roles that take him from a clog dancer to a cardinal.

The new marketing idea of running productions like mini-series on TV, which we have seen with the RSC's *Nickelby* and Ayckbourn's latest, might work against this. It took a while to work up steam, and had I not been at the once-only straight-through session for critics, musicologists, and musical lovers, might not have come back for a second helping.

Robert Page

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The New Riverside Production  
by STEPHEN LOWE  
Directed by DAVID LEVEAUX  
SPECIAL SUMMER TICKET PRICE £1.50  
It's pungency and beauty makes you hold your breath. THE TIMES  
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# HOW THE MINERS ON STRIKE HAVE BEEN MISLED...

## 4. ABOUT THE PLAN FOR COAL.

Miners who are on strike are angry. And it's easy to understand why.

They are angry because of what they have been told by their leaders.

But have they been told the truth?

The sad thing is that this strike is totally unnecessary.

To get them out on strike, our miners have been deliberately misled by their leaders. Causing both bitterness and hardship among miners.

If it goes on long enough, the strike threatens up to 30 good pits with permanent closure. And it could cost not only miners, but also steel workers and railwaymen jobs that should not be lost.

It will drive away future coal customers.

It will make coal more difficult to sell.

Surely, this isn't what our miners want.

That's why, day by day, the Coal Board is publishing the facts. Facts that have been buried by the emotion, and the propaganda of the strike.

**Has Plan for Coal's investment been honoured?**

Time and time again, the miners' leaders have accused the Coal Board of not honouring the Plan for Coal.

The Plan for Coal, drawn up in 1974 between the NCB, the mining unions and

the Government, hoped for £4.3 thousand million to be invested in the coal industry between 1974 and 1985.

So far, £6.5 thousand million has been invested. That's £2 billion, or 50 per cent more than envisaged. (All figures are expressed in today's money).

**Is Plan for Coal's production target being achieved?**

Because Plan for Coal did not predict the effects of the fall in energy consumption, the forecast for coal demand in 1985 was about 20 million tonnes more than we now estimate will be used. But, in percentage terms, the Plan hoped that by 1985, coal would be providing a third of the nation's energy needs. Currently, we have a slightly better share of the market than forecast.

**Is the industry being modernised – as hoped for by Plan for Coal?**

Plan for Coal looked for 42 million tonnes of new capacity by 1985. All this capacity is now completed or under construction.

Plan for Coal expected that the new low-cost capacity would replace the worst, most uneconomic capacity.

Yet the miners' leaders refuse to recognise this.

The Final Tri-partite Report on the Plan for Coal said in paragraph 27:

"inevitably some pits will have to close as their useful economic reserves of coal are depleted".

The Plan for Coal envisaged that between three and four million tonnes of capacity would be closed each year. Yet the average has been only about half that amount.

Since 1974, only 80 pits have closed. Just 12 per cent of our production is now directly costing more than £275 million a year to support. This is money that should be going into modernising our better pits – as Plan for Coal intended it would.

Britain is the only country in Western Europe that is investing so heavily in the future of coal.

The British coal industry has excellent prospects.

This strike – not the Coal Board – could butcher the industry.

That's why it is so important that this strike ends soon.

It was called by the miners' leaders. It now needs to be called off by the miners themselves.

**NCB**  
One in a series issued  
by the National Coal Board.



## WIMBLEDON DIARY

### Babes of the baseline

Once again, Wimbledon has been submerged beneath a non-monsoonous regime of teenage girls of whom few have ever heard, all wearing pretty clothes and headbands, smiling little roguish smiles in mid-match, and blubbing when at last they get their comeuppance at the hands of Martina Navratilova or another of the grown-ups.

This year there is Steffi Graf, eventually beaten by Jo Durie, and missing the boxer dog left behind in Germany, and Carina Karlsson, the Swedish qualifier who, disdaining the horrid grunting noises affected by so many players, squeals like a bat when she serves.

"I look forward to being champion in two or three years time," said Miss Graf, but how often is teenage tennis promise unfulfilled? Where are they now, those teeny starlets of yesterday who threatened to win Wimbledon before they were 20? Tracy Austin, who played Chris Evert, as she then was, on the centre court at the tender age of 15, in pigtails and a Little Miss Muffet dress, is now plagued by sciatic problems, constantly striving to make a comeback that constantly fails. Her most recent attempt, an exhibition in Los Angeles, led to yet another injury.

John McEnroe on Art: "What I want to know is, why does everybody rate the Miami Open? Why don't people come out and say that's one picture that stinks?"

### In the mind

Tennis people are fond of saying, is a psychological sport, whether your psyche is as hot as McEnroe's or as chilly as Borg's. Paul Annacone, the young lad from the University of Tennessee who turned professional a scant two months ago and reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals, is such a devotee of "sports psychology" that he has brought his own sporting psychologist with him, a fellow by the name of Noel Blundell. Annacone, a polite and clean-cut American who describes himself as "a patient aggressive guy", declares: "I think people would be crazy not to hire a sports psychologist."

### Gamesmen

Tennis is going to be an Olympic sport again. This summer in Los Angeles, tennis will be a demonstration sport, and in 1988, the game will be played for actual medals in Seoul. None of the players is permitted to receive money even indirectly from the Olympic tournament this summer, though this is not the easiest thing in the world to police. Players for the tournament will include Pat Cash of Australia, Jimmy Arias of the United States, and Mats Wilander of Sweden. It might be argued that none of these is exactly a true-blue amateur. The International Olympic Council has ruled that you don't really count as a professional if you were born after January 1, 1964. Wilander's winnings this year so far add up to \$122,716. True, he hasn't won anything enormous, but that's not the point. It's not the winning but taking part that counts.

Quote of the fortnight, from Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia: "I don't care any more what people say about Martina and Chris. I just try to play tennis, be happy, and take the money and run."

### Second string

Today's breed of tennis players tends to be pretty single-minded. To attempt to be a man of parts is seen as a failure to get on with the job. But there are some players even among the top flight who strive to be the complete man: John McEnroe is continuing his dogged battle with musicianship, while his mentor, in musical matters, Vitas Gerulaitis, has not only stopped looking behind him when he serves, but continues to be a rather accomplished performer on the guitar. Guillermo Vilas is something of a poet.

### Hair and gone

There is still no one to fill the vacancy left by Torben Ulrich, the hippy who played at Wimbledon with shoulder length hair and a headband as far back away as the early Sixties. Ulrich, the Dane, composer, philosopher, saxophonist, student of Zen, a man known to turn up for major tournaments on a pushbike, was renowned for such remarks as: "How do we know we are awake? Maybe we are truly sleeping." Ulrich's high point was an epic match with Pancho Gonzalez. He lost it, but refused to be downcast. "It's just another painting on the wall," he said, before pedalling away as silently as he had come.

Simon Barnes



"Anyone to declare?"

After the 1983 general election Richard Heller, political adviser to Denis Healey, left to seek better fortune in Hollywood. He writes an open letter to Labour's new leader

## A new star, the same old script

Dear Mr Kinnock,

Sorry for the long delay in writing, but as you know I zipped off to Hollywood just after you became leader and I've been through some heavy times. Actually I've been working on this picture called *Cycle Sluts Versus The Zombie Ghouls*. It's about this little remote desert town and all the people are terrified by these rampaging killer zombies who live on human flesh, but the town is saved by this weird gang on motorbikes, only the gang is all women, of all different races and sexual tastes (like if this gang were in London they'd probably get a GLC grant).

Anyway I'm back in England for the rest of the cricket season, and on behalf of itinerant screenwriters for Labour I thought I'd check on the progress of Labour's next movie.

Yes, movie. A political campaign has much in common with making a movie (lead actors, support actors, bit players, a script, a director, a producer, technicians, a front office, frenzy and fantasy, hysteria and hype). Above all the ultimate test of both movies and politicians is how well they do at the box office.

Considered as a movie, Labour's 1983 election campaign belongs with the all-time turkeys, the multi-million losers: a *Temple Of Doom* without Indiana Jones.

So what's been changed? Have we really got a new production on the road? Or are we going to do a re-run of 1983? Here's what I've seen so far: apologised for some of these notes are off-base but we really get no coverage on the West Coast of things British, apart from Joan Collins.

Leading Man. A big improvement on last one, who was very definitely cast against type and never really "got behind" the role. New man has personality, stamina, good set of pipes. Fine in comedy and monologue, can handle passion, but uneven in close-ups with MGM (McGragh); she wins most scenes. Has never carried a production, has no real following at box office. His dialogue sometimes overwritten, and he should be told that alteration was already *vieux chapeau* when Piers the Plowman knocked off for lunch.

Feature Players. Fine cast: durable, well-liked, professional. But too many think they should be playing lead. A real mistake letting that off-the-wall character Benn back into cast: he is strictly a *cult* artist and box-office poison to general public.

Bit Players. This was high-profile problem in 1983, because casting directors were far too slack and let anyone have a part in production. So we had freaks (on books of Militant agency and other far-outers) with speaking parts. Also too many actors from fringe groups —

who were actually allowed to write their own dialogue into production. Current production still suffers, badly, on both counts. Urgent need for crack-down: blacklist Militant agency, etc, and basic tests for all actors. No sign of either.

Director. Who the hell is directing? As hard to see now as in 1983.

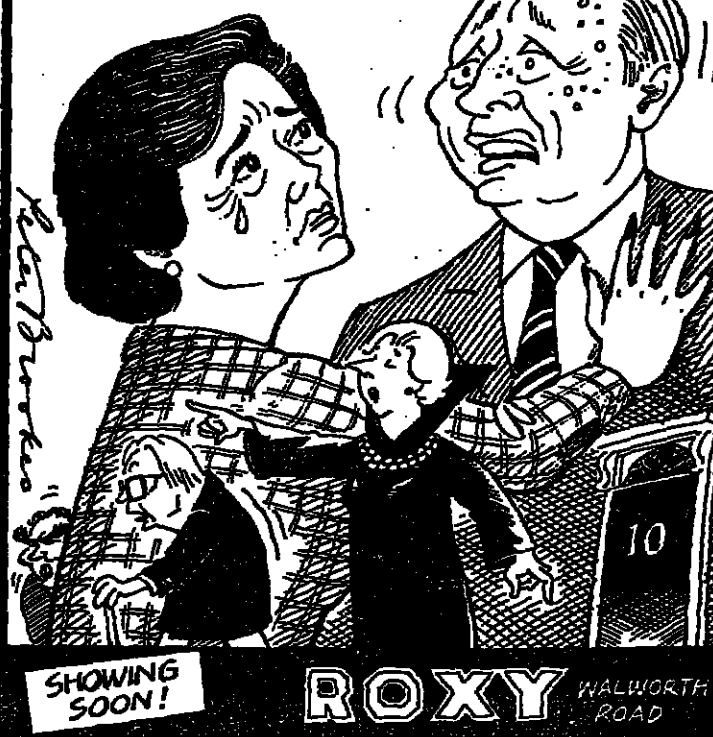
Producer. Jim Mortimer bows out, so who have you asked to produce the next one? Need to find a tough savvy pro, not part of existing set-up, who can really tighten up that sappy front office in Walworth Vista.

Technicians. Almost all terrible in 1983 — but all of them working on next picture. Not promising.

Is there life after June 1983? All's well that ends well?... or just a comedy of errors?

**"Luv, Labour's Lost!"**

...THE MOVIE



SHOWING SOON!

The Script. 1983 script was The Ultimate Bomb (much of it actually promised ultimate bomb). The dialogue was unbearably clumsy, the plot totally unbelievable (as O. Wilde nearly put it, "the unspeakable in hot pursuit of the incredible"). The 1983 script was so terrible that some feature players started ad libbing. Special problems with many big scenes in 1983 production: the scene with the bomb (and all military scenes) had no conviction, ditto scene with the foreigners, especially the one on the market, ditto scene with law and order. And the scene with the families who wanted to buy their house was a real turn-off.

Yours sincerely, Richard Heller

I can see no sign of major rewrite in progress. New production has added some fine hospital footage and some okay comedy. Market scene has been reshot, but the lighting was so murky that I had no idea of camera point-of-view — were we looking from inside market or outside or wherever? Otherwise no major script changes so far announced — and no new scriptwriters engaged.

New production still being written in-house (though new management seems genuinely interested in audience research — unlike old team which ignored audience altogether and made production decisions only as result of battles within studio. As yet new production seems set to repeat scenes which stifled in 1983. The Box Office, 1983 a real godsend. Labour almost out-grosted by new Alliance Studios, cheapo-hype outfit which has never done major release since *taliesin* began. But 1984 grosses looking good: good results from simultaneous local releases in May, and okay performance with special release for European market. (Labour getting assist from stream of exceptionally poor releases from McGragh and stinko performances from name star. But Alliance Studios still in contention, especially in south and east — where most theatres are. And Alliance set to clean up again if Labour gets bad word-of-mouth (One likely source of bad Labour word of mouth next year: three Labour stars, Kaufman, Shore, Silk, plus other popular actors could be axed by freako nobodies).

But basic problem for Labour is to persuade audiences that it really has new production on schedule, not remake or 1983 with a few new faces and process shots. Much persuasion and evidence — still needed. Failure spells bleak long-term future for whole studio.

Those are my notes since returning. Mr Kinnock. Tell me I'm wrong. I'd like to stick around and see more of the production, but as of right now I'm heading back to the slits and the ghouls. Their script is easier to follow.

Meanwhile I have this idea for the next Labour party political. There's this small island and all the people are terrorized by this female fanatic who wears blue leotards and leads this gang of zombies who go round destroying factories and schools and hospitals and whole cities but in the end both she and the zombies get driven away by a friendly dragon. Could this be a Go project for you? Well, as they say in Hollywood, less have lunch!

Yours sincerely, Richard Heller

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Woodrow Wyatt

## Rubbishing the constitution

Having no written constitution, the British adore battles over constitutional principles. The slightest whiff of a threat to the rights of a subject and the spirit of Hampden moves across the land again. When Hampden refused to pay his share of Charles I's ship money he was outside the law, as the Court of the Exchequer found. But he was fighting a principle: that the King ought not to be allowed to raise taxes by his own dictate.

Mr Livingstone's money, he persuaded large numbers that the abolition of elections to the GLC in May 1985 is a cause of the kind that stirred Hampden. This week the GLC hung a great sign on County Hall to be read across the river at Westminster: "Peers: Thank you for defending London's democracy".

Many normally friendly to the Government seem to agree with this sentiment. The *Times* wrote last Saturday: "The Lords' defeat of the Government's intention to cancel the elections due to take place next year... is plainly an action in the best spirit of the constitution."

The *Sunday Times* remarked, "For a government re-elected so convincingly last summer it takes bungling on a magisterial scale to turn the House of Lords and Mr Livingstone into defenders of the people."

A great victory has been won for democracy in the conviction of grave and respected heads. But what was that victory? As the abolition of the GLC and the other six metropolitan councils was pledged in the Conservative manifesto at the last election it cannot be undemocratic to proceed with it. It may be argued that it is wrong but the national electorate approved the project only last year, however much Mr Livingstone claims to have turned ratepayers against it in London.

Can it be a great constitutional principle whether there should be fresh elections for bodies shortly to disappear? They would be merely a battle of propaganda.

The Government fears adverse propaganda. It believes that in London, the most important of the metropolitan councils, Mr Livingstone's skillful use of ratepayers' money could bring about a decisive victory which would reflect badly on the Government nationally. That is precisely why Mr Livingstone wants the elections to be held. He would like to see the Government get a national knock, and to revive the issue of abolition. There is no constitutional principle involved: when the GLC was created to take the place of the old London County

Council the elections to the LCC due to take place in 1963 were cancelled, without any major outcry that I can recall from students of the constitution.

Mr Livingstone cannot be seeking a second brief truncated term for practical purposes. There is little power left to be exercised in the GLC. London Transport has already turned into a London Regional Transport, and is lost to the GLC. It will be responsible to the Government which is appropriate in the case of a capital city. London's transport can no longer be used as a vehicle for politically motivated overmanning and waste of resources and for the manipulation of fares to catch votes. The Inner London Education Authority is to be run for the first time by members directly elected to it by the ratepayers.

Until the GLC disappears it will be responsible for waste disposal, the Fire Service and planning control. It will also have the ability, which needs to be curtailed, to spend money for what it may judge to be the benefit of people in its area within the limits of a 2p rate.

The right to control waste disposal is scarcely one to be fought for at the barricades. The Fire Service will work as effectively when it is responsible to central government as it does now. The other powers of the GLC are minimal and have been largely used by Mr Livingstone for propaganda purposes: there is no difficulty in other bodies taking them over. Likewise the other metropolitan councils' main functions, namely the police, fire, public transport, and waste disposal, can easily be transferred elsewhere without making a dent in the constitution, whatever that is conceived to be.

The remaining issue of any substance, which principally affects London, is the absence of some focal point or representative figurehead for London which the GLC, so recently created, did not provide. One might be proud of being a citizen of London, but is one really proud of being a citizen of that remote and vague institution, the Greater London Council?

The Lord Mayor of London evokes the traditional kind of civic pride. Mr Livingstone, with his engaging panache, would make an admirable Lord Mayor of London, preferably for a five-year term. Perhaps the relevant authorities could make the necessary arrangements provided that it would not offend the defenders of the British Constitution, which usually means whatever the user of the phrase intends it to mean.

Caroline Akrill

## Ah well, back to portmanteaus

My husband once won five plastic handbags in a Cyril Lord carpet competition. They didn't arrive all at once, they came singly, one every day for five days, each with a letter of congratulation. Somehow I felt that Cyril Lord had malfunctioned, but I hadn't the heart to suggest it because the competition winner was absolutely thrilled.

The handbags were laid out like wedding gifts in the study and everyone who called was invited to inspect them. If they were agast, they were far too polite to say so, because the handbags were truly horrible. They were black and very large, their tiny ribs showed through their clammy plastic, their sharp metal clasps snapped with threatening abruptness over their stiff, mock-satin linings, the funeral depths of which concealed the doubtful bonus of a mirror whose perilous edges prohibited its use without heavy-duty gloves. My husband was enormously proud of the five handbags, especially as he had never before thought to enter a competition in which anything other than sporting skill was required. He was reluctant to be parted from them.

Finally, and only when every woman of his acquaintance had refused to have one as a gift, he was persuaded to relinquish them to a charity tombola, but with regret and many a backward glance. He never entered another newspaper competition — until last week.

Inspired by the idea of a competition of a near-intellectual nature — involving the daily perusal of commercial and industrial stocks and shares, he set about it. Grinly before breakfast, and in total silence, he sat and totted up his daily score of plus and minus, without achieving anything like the required dividend — until Saturday.

On Saturday afternoon, occupying the entire dining table with his collection of Portfolio columns for the week, he totted up his figures — which came to +43. "I think I've won it," he said.

There was an uncertain silence. "Don't be silly," we said, "you can't have; you've never won a newspaper competition in your life."

"Oh yes I have," he said, and, with asperity, reminded us of the five black plastic handbags. We were doubtful but, hoping to be convinced, we gathered round the table. "Plus eighteen, plus fifteen, minus thirteen, plus twenty-two, plus one, makes plus forty-three," my husband said. We compared it with the figure in the paper. He was right: £20,000 could be ours.

As if by mutual consent, the women of the family sat down and our eyes glared over. Into our separate minds flashed a succession of eminently desirable things: a 924 Porsche, three weeks on a sun-baked rock in the Algarve, a bank statement with a credit balance, the entire fashion department of Harvey Nichols. Then I looked at the card.

It said: "Telephone the Times Portfolio claims between 10.00am and 3.30pm on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. NO CLAIMS CAN BE ACCEPTED OUTSIDE THESE HOURS." The time was four minutes past six o'clock.

Distraught, the holder of +43 bolted for the telephone. The *Times* answering device took one largely incoherent message, followed shortly afterwards by another, spoken with exaggerated care, as if the person who eventually heard it might be retarded: this time it included our name, address and telephone number. I looked at my husband's anguished face. "You can't expect to be given anything," I said, "rules are rules after all."

"I expect I'll get something," he said. "They won't be mean about this." His faith in the compassion of *The Times* and its ability to bend the rules of a national competition for his sole benefit was touching, if unrealistic. "Reporters will come," he decided. "Photographers. They will want the whole story."

The whole thing made me feel ill. More than anything I wanted to believe that we could win the Portfolio but I knew in my heart that a late claim was inadvisable, and the knowledge that we had missed such riches by 2 hours 35 minutes was too awful to contemplate.

There are a lot of minutes between four minutes past six on Saturday and 10am on Monday. A lot of minutes in which to speculate upon what one would do with £20,000.

At one minute to ten on Monday I followed the holder of +43 to the telephone. I didn't actually want to listen, but then, I couldn't bear not to. Six times we tried the number and all we got was an engaged signal. The friendly female voice who eventually answered listened with surprising sympathy and patience to the story of +43, then she went off the line in order to check our personal share numbers to see if we had added up our daily totals correctly. When she returned it was to say we had not. We appeared to be a day short, and this, it transpired, was because on Wednesday our *Times*, had been delivered. But on that day, we were told, most of our shares were well down, so our total was only plus 35.

The relief was tremendous. "Oh, my husband said, 'in that case, I had better ring off and stop myself a double brandy, but...' he added in a spurt of generosity occasioned by the knowledge that he had not lost £20,000 by 2 hours 35 minutes, 'if I win next week, I'll send you a thousand.'" "I'll keep you to that," she said.

Caroline Akrill's Evening *Prig* for children has just been published in paperback by Granada, and her autobiographical anthology, *Not Quite a Horsewoman*, in paperback by Macdonald Futura.

## Kenneth Mackenzie on the Nigerian army's need for a show trial



Three others on General Buhari's wanted list (from left): Chief Akinloye, Uba Ahmed and Joseph Wayas

## Dikko: the fiasco that could unleash the young bloods

The Nigerian army prides itself on being correct. A ceremonial parade in Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos is usually as precise and well-ordered as Trooping the Colour at Horse Guards Parade, though perhaps with an extra emphasis to the stamping to give an African flavour. And the officer class is the best-educated in Africa.

Similarly, the five military governments Nigeria has had since the first coup in 1966 have been of a higher quality than most military governments. One of the first acts of the regime of Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, which seized power last December 31, was to honour the debts incurred by the corrupt civilians it had displaced. And at every opportunity since then, General Buhari and his colleagues have assured the world of their respectability: they are anti-communist, on the side of legality and the angels.

Why then did such a government become involved in an attempted act of international terrorism? It has denied involvement, of course, but the evidence makes it difficult to avoid the conclusion that there was at least a nod and a wink, or a blind eye turned. Who else would want to address a crate containing Dr Umaru Dikko to the Ministry of External Affairs, Lagos?

The principal reason for this desperate measure (assuming some guilt) is the regime's feeling of insecurity: it badly needs the shot of popularity that the trial and conviction of such a "big fish" as Dr Dikko would bring. A secondary reason is the intense hatred that is felt, both by the ruling soldiers and the people at large, for those alleged to have plundered the country of millions of pounds who are now living in luxury abroad.

The insecurity first. The regime came to power on a wave of popularity, the people had been sickened by the cynical corruption of the Shagari government and the blatant rigging of the 1983 election that brought it back to power; but the honeymoon with the soldiers has now ended and disillusion has set in. Most importantly, the regime is failing to solve Nigeria's economic

malaise. It gave the impression at the time of the coup that all could be remedied by the ending of corruption and the repatriation of the politicians' ill-gotten gains. The truth, of course, is that Nigeria is well down the road to bankruptcy: it spends more than it earns (although the earnings, thanks to oil, would be enough to make any other African country rich). Corruption has always been only a tiny blip in the downward graph.

The Buhari regime has produced no fundamental ideas about how to cure the Mischewer syndrome. It has also failed (because it would not contemplate devaluation of a seriously over-valued naira) to negotiate terms with the IMF which would have allowed a loan large enough to meet the immediate overdraft problems, as it were.

Thus things remain in short supply. Business stagnates. Unemployment grows. Surprisingly, military toughness has not reduced the crime wave. And petty corruption, at customs posts and police blocks, is still there.

More seriously (and this relates to a need for a repatriated Dr Dikko) the government is having little success with its War Against Indiscipline. In the trials of former politicians it hoped to show that malfeasance does not pay.

The first difficulty is because the decree setting up the military tribunals has offended many Nigerians' sense of justice. It provides for a minimum sentence of 21 years in prison, which seems absurdly high, and a maximum of life imprisonment. It allows no appeal, although the Supreme Military Council will review sentences. A judge will sit with the military men on the

fish" escaped at the time of the coup. The charitable say it was an accident; the less charitable that it is a symptom of the fact that the northern military establishment has taken over from the northern civilian establishment. The big men look after their own, the man in the street in Lagos is muttering. The return of Dr Dikko, a powerful figure from the Muslim north, one of the "Kaduna mafia" according to some, would have gone far to answer these mutterings.

The other big men sought, but with little hope of success, are Dr Joseph Wayas, former president of the Senate, who is said to own expensive houses in London and Florida, Chief Adisa Akinloye, former chairman of Shagari's National Party of Nigeria and now a wealthy man, Alhaji Uba Ahmed, general secretary of the party, who returned to Nigeria on the day of the coup, and Isyaku Ibrahim, a prominent businessman and Shagari adviser.

Dreams of having these men in custody and reclaiming the money they are alleged to have sent overseas have been fading fast. With the failure of the Dikko capture they will disappear.

Fears that the exiles might organize an effective opposition to the regime from overseas have been taken seriously. Dr Dikko made threatening noises in a notorious BBC interview, and it was thought that the vast amount of money available made the recruitment of a mercenary force possible. But in fact they must know that they are hugely unpopular throughout Nigeria and no amount of military power could possibly bring them success.

The real threat to the regime is elsewhere. The December 31 coup, it was widely said, was a pre-emptive strike to prevent a group of younger, more radical and more bloody-minded officers taking over. Those "young majors" are still in the wings. A returned Dikko might have helped to keep them offstage.

General Buhari and his men have been handicapped because the "big





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## DIPLOMATIC SMASH AND GRAB

In January 1981, when an attempt was made to transform the Libyan Embassy in Lagos into a "People's Bureau", the Nigerian External Affairs Ministry promptly announced that the new arrangement was "totally unacceptable to Nigeria" and ordered the Libyans involved to leave the country. The decision was regarded at the time by diplomats in Lagos as impulsive and an overreaction. But more recent events have made many people in London wish that the British Foreign Office had reacted with equal impulsiveness. Nigeria, it seemed, was one country which understood what diplomatic relations were about, and had no truck with the abuse of diplomatic privilege.

That, however, was the Nigerian government of President Shagari, in which Dr Umaru Dikko was minister of transport. The Nigerian government of today appears to have rather different standards. The External Affairs Ministry is now an address to which crates containing Dr Dikko and others can be sent.

The Nigerian government's denial of involvement will be believed by no one. Its anxiety to bring Dr Dikko to trial is well-known, and its chances of obtaining his extradition were negligible so long as he was likely to be tried in camera by a military tribunal.

The British government and people have every right to feel affronted by this brazen attempt to by-pass normal legal procedures, by the resort to violence in the streets of our capital, and by the peremptory recall and detention of a British airline on the part of a government with which we have hitherto had friendly relations. There has been nothing quite like it since

the kidnapping on the streets of Paris, in October 1965, of the Moroccan opposition leader Mehdi Ben Barka - though the British police come very much better out of this episode than the French police did out of that one. Ben Barka was actually "arrested" by two French policemen, and has never been seen since, whereas Dr Dikko today owes his freedom, and quite possibly his life, to the prompt and effective intervention of the British police.

That is not to say that Dr Dikko is innocent. It is quite possible that, if the Nigerian court system were functioning normally, a good case for his extradition to face charges of corruption could have been made. (Chief Enahoro, after all, was extradited to Nigeria in 1963 to face trial for treason, a far more unquestionably political charge.) But the question of his guilt or innocence in no way affects the character of yesterday's events, which constitute a crime in any book and are simply not tolerable as an act by one state on the territory of another. They are bound, quite obviously, to have a very bad effect on Anglo-Nigerian relations.

But should that effect take the form of a severance of diplomatic relations? That does not automatically follow. In the Libyan case the British government had no other choice because the Libyan government, instead of dissociating itself from the murder of WPC Fletcher and co-operating in the identification and apprehension of the individuals responsible, chose to present it as an act of legitimate self-defence and used diplomatic immunity as a cover to allow the murderer or murderers to escape. Moreover the fact that

the shot had been fired from the embassy itself, coming on top of the takeover of the embassy by "students" and the evidence that it had been involved in other acts of violence, had already cast very severe doubt on the willingness - perhaps the ability - of Colonel Gaddafi's regime to conduct normal diplomatic relations.

In the present case the extent to which the Nigerian High Commission (as opposed to the Nigerian government) was involved is not yet clear. Evidently it was in some degree, or some members of it were, but at least it has not tried to prevent the British police from carrying out their duties. The offending crates were not, it seems, actually marked "diplomatic"; no attempt was made to stop them being opened once discovered; and none of those arrested so far, though they include at least one diplomat, has claimed diplomatic immunity.

Sir Geoffrey Howe took the right line yesterday in telling the High Commissioner that he expected the fullest co-operation "including the waiver of diplomatic immunity if that was necessary for the purpose of ensuring justice". That should be the test. Diplomatic relations, are useful and necessary, as much if not more with governments we dislike than with those we like. But they are possible only if the spirit as well as the letter of the Vienna Convention is respected on both sides. If diplomatic immunity is used to protect murderers and kidnappers, then diplomatic relations become impossible and to maintain them is a dangerous precedent. But if diplomats co-operate in bringing criminals to book their presence here still has some value.

## RETURN TICKET TO TIBET?

Since arriving in Britain last week, the Dalai Lama has been asked more than once whether he is thinking of paying a visit to Tibet. He has been careful not to rule out the possibility altogether, but clearly believes that the time is not yet ripe. It is not hard to understand his attitude. Going to Tibet would mean dealing directly with Chinese officials, both in Peking and in Lhasa. This in turn would confer some sort of legitimacy on Chinese policies in Tibet. As such it is not such an easy step for the Dalai Lama to take.

Since the Lhasa rebellion in 1959, when the Dalai Lama fled to India, the history of China's control over Tibet has been a sorry story of colonial misrule. Traditional Tibet was by no means the Shangri-la that some of its more romantic admirers imagine it to have been. But the shortcomings of the old society are no justification for what the Chinese chose to do. For 15 or 20 years - during most of the 1960s and 1970s - Han Chinese administrators more or less destroyed Tibet's religion, culture and language, while imposing an economic policy quite unsuited to local needs.

A good deal of this destruction

was done in the name of Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution. But some of it resulted simply from the narrow minded intolerance of local Chinese, an intolerance which Chinese leaders admit still exists - a damaging influence today. Tibet was not the only so-called autonomous Region of China to suffer during the Cultural Revolution. The Mongolians of Inner Mongolia and the Hui Moslems were also subjected to concerted efforts to force them into a Maoist mould. But the Tibetan people's high developed sense of national identity made their case a particularly wretched one.

If Tibet were still under the sway of Maoist dogma today, there could be no question of the Dalai Lama returning home, even for a visit. But in fact there have been encouraging changes since 1980. Mr Deng Xiaoping and his supporters within the Chinese leadership have made an effort to redress past wrongs. They have instituted a wide ranging programme of reforms designed to reinstate Buddhism, restore the Tibetan language, and to allow Tibetan farmers to work their land as they see fit. There is resistance to these reforms from

local Chinese officials; but at least a start has been made.

In the early 1980s Mr Deng and his colleagues also tried to cultivate the Tibetan community in exile. They invited several delegations to China, with the aim of getting the Dalai Lama himself to return. Since 1982 there have been fewer contacts and the atmosphere has grown cooler. Peking has rejected what it says are the Dalai Lama's unreasonable demands for complete autonomy for Tibetans, while Tibetans in exile have been shocked by a series of executions carried out by the Chinese authorities in Lhasa. But given the long term political and economic aims of Mr Deng and his supporters, it is still in Peking's interests to come to terms. The Dalai Lama's government-in-exile in Dharamsala is an embarrassment to China, especially when - with one eye on Taiwan and another on Hongkong - Mr Deng is stressing the need for national reconciliation. It is also an irritant in China's relations with India. In view of this the Dalai Lama would be well advised to promote further contacts between Dharamsala and Peking - and to encourage the idea that sooner rather than later he will make a trip home.

## PAROLE ON PAROLE

After yesterday's Appeal Court judgment, the number of judges ranked on the Home Secretary's side in the controversy over parole for serious offenders has risen to three, and the number against him to two. Close pegging: it will be for the House of Lords to give a definitive ruling later on the legal propriety of Mr Brittan's change of policy. But the reverberations set off by his announcement at last year's Conservative Party Conference already provide a lesson to Home Secretaries against playing to the gallery in penal policy.

When he faced that stern assembly last October, Mr Brittan was concerned to be seen acting vigorously against the problem of prison overcrowding, and also to be responding to public concern (not confined to conference delegates) that penalties for serious offenders were sometimes too mild. He sought to meet both objectives at once in a dual announcement about parole.

The minimum qualifying period in jail for prisoners to apply for parole after serving one-third of their sentences would be halved, he said. But to offset this relaxation he added that prisoners convicted for serious offences involving violence or drugs would not normally be granted parole until the last few months of their sentences. Some categories of prisoners for life would not

normally be granted parole until they had served 20 years.

This week 2,000 prisoners walked out of jail as a result of his first announcement. None was heard to complain about the rules having been changed. It was otherwise with the far smaller number of serious offenders who had been close to the point where they could hope for parole, and now found their hopes deferred for years more. A few, who had already been moved to open prisons in tacit preparation for parole, were moved back to closed prisons again, though it is claimed that this was not a direct result of the policy change.

Apparently Mr Brittan had not taken the precaution of consulting the Parole Board before making his announcement (one of the points at issue in court has been whether he was legally obliged to). The announcement dismayed several members of the board, one of whom resigned. The Prison Officers Association complained that in handling letters its members were now denied "carrot as well as stick". Four prisoners sued the Home Secretary, alleging that in changing the rules in mid-sentence he was contravening the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and that by imposing a general rule he was denying the individual scrutiny that the legislation stipulates.

These legal objections have no strong case in law, their disappointment is natural. The parole system is run with a broadly consistent approach which minimizes the building of false hopes and so it ought to be. Mr Brittan's announcement marked a change of policy which was very sharp, and his decision appeared unduly arbitrary. If the Lords vindicate him as to the law, he has a duty to continue to exercise a fully attentive discretion over applications in these categories, to be alert for "genuinely exceptional" and not betray himself into the indiscriminate blanket ban that his accusers charge him with.

But if the aggrieved prisoners have no strong case in law, their disappointment is natural. The parole system is run with a broadly consistent approach which minimizes the building of false hopes and so it ought to be. Mr Brittan's announcement marked a change of policy which was very sharp, and his decision appeared unduly arbitrary. If the Lords vindicate him as to the law, he has a duty to continue to exercise a fully attentive discretion over applications in these categories, to be alert for "genuinely exceptional" and not betray himself into the indiscriminate blanket ban that his accusers charge him with.

## No legal change in marriage petition

From Lord Robertson of Oakridge  
Sir, It is, I believe, important to clarify the position of the marriage law in the light of the considerable unexpected publicity given to the decision of the Personal Bills Committee on the Bill concerning Mr Alan Monk and Mrs Valerie Hill (report July 5). Contrary to some comments, what is in question is not a change of the law, but whether an exception to the law should be made in this particular case.

The law of the Church (which antedates Henry VIII) and the law of the land are generally agreed about the "prohibited degrees", i.e. relationships by blood or marriage in which closely related persons may not contract a lawful marriage. These laws protect the integrity of the family. They reflect and strengthen the natural order. In 1981 the House of Lords decisively rejected an attempt to change them.

Most laws, however, allow for very occasional exceptions in unusual circumstances. The question as to whether the proposed union of Mr Alan Monk and Mrs Valerie Hill is such a case is the issue before Parliament. So far all that has been resolved by the House of Lords is that the objects of the proposed Bill are proper to be enacted by a personal Bill. Even an agreement to this particular Bill by Parliament would not alter the general law.

It is not the case that the Church of England has altered or is preparing to alter its stance on this matter. In 1982 the Archbishop of Canterbury set up a small committee to advise him personally on the law of affinity. This private initiative produced a report recently which showed a division of views. The minority report (signed by the Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at Oxford, amongst others) recommended that existing legal impediments of marriage between parent-in-law and child-in-law should not be removed. (No Just Cause, p. 110).

Neither the House of Bishops nor the General Synod has had the opportunity to debate or to express a view as to whether the Church of England should alter its traditional (and biblical) stance in these matters.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERTSON OF OAKRIDGE,  
House of Lords  
July 6.

## Deep-sea drilling

From Dr J. K. Leggett and others  
Sir, Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy recently issued congratulations to geophysicists who were gathering at the European Association of Exploration Geophysicists' meeting in London on their achievements.

In his opening address, published in a special covering interview in the EAEG magazine, *First Break*, Mr Walker says: "One of my ambitions for this department is that, with all the knowledge and technology that we develop in terms of our own exploration and development, we will increasingly orientate towards involvement worldwide."

How is it, then, that the Department of Energy has withdrawn its support for continuing UK involvement in international drilling in the ocean basins? The Ocean Drilling Programme, due to start in January next year, is an expansion of the hugely successful Deep Sea Drilling Project, and will use an upgraded drill ship and involve more countries than took part in the last eight years of DSDP (USA, UK, France, Japan, Germany and - until 1982 - Russia).

The tactical and strategic benefits of past deep-sea drilling are widely recognised in the oil industry. The future has even more to offer: the new ship (ironically, half British-owned) has an ice-strengthened hull and can drill in the poorly-understood Antarctic, where Britain and British companies will surely have exploration interests in the years to come.

Quite apart from the economic rationale is the academic one: the loss of opportunities to British scientists if the UK is not involved in the ODP will further speed the rate at which British marine science is falling behind that of other developed countries. The Department of Energy paid 40 per cent of the annual UK contribution to DSDP. The cost of annual subscription in the new ODP would total only £1.8m, of which the department might be expected to pay a share of 50 per cent - a trebled contribution, but one which means the least amounts to less than 10 per cent of the cost of the cheapest hole drilled in the North Sea.

Yours faithfully,  
J. K. LEGGETT (Imperial College of Science & Technology),  
H. C. JENKINS (University of Oxford),  
N. Shackleton (University of Cambridge),  
Imperial College of Science and Technology,  
Department of Geology, Royal School of Mines, 24, W. 1st St.,  
Prince Consort Road, SW7.

## Poor pickings from refuse tips

From Mr E. L. Hamblin  
Sir, In recent months I have had frequent occasion to visit the Hastings municipal refuse tip for the purpose of dumping unsaleable and unwanted household items. Similar to the Merseyside dump described by your reporter (July 3) and by the Granada Television programme, *World in Action*, this dump, too, has its human population of salvors and entrepreneurs.

I saw one moment of great pleasure - giving a small "urchin" girl a tiny broken motor car. It was one moment of pleasure against a background of disturbing poverty.

My work (I am a fisheries consultant) takes me to the underdeveloped countries of the world where squalor, poverty, hunger and deprivation are present on a scale unknown in England. But my visits to the dump and your reporter's note are a salutary reminder that our social services have much work to do before the comfortable delusion of many of the better-off, that poverty and deprivation no longer exist in our country, becomes reality.

Perhaps this Government can take some notice that the British poor still have the thrusting initiative to pick a living off our rubbish dumps.

Yours sincerely,  
E. L. HAMBLIN,  
1 Totterd Coastguard Cottages,  
Pett Level,  
Hastings, East Sussex.

## Broadcasting doubts

From Mr Michael Marshall, MP for Arundel (Conservative)  
Sir, Some of the doubts about satellite broadcasting which Professor Ehrenberg and Mr Roger Graef raised (June 25) need to be put into better perspective.

First, on "lack of enthusiasm", the BBC and the IBA are apparently at one in their desire to introduce a DBS system as soon as practicable. Indeed, the IBA's own commitment must have been strengthened by the 15 offers of participation they had received from industrial and television companies when their deadline expired on June 20.

Second, so far as the Unisat design is concerned, it is suggested that 200 watts is unnecessarily powerful and, at £200m is overpriced. To reduce the satellite power to 100 watts would have little effect on cost reduction. Moreover, it would mean an increase in the sensitivity required of the domestic receiver by 2½ times, which would substantially increase the cost of the receiver and its installation.

In any event, the £200m figure mentioned is, I understand, much greater than that quoted by Unisat, whose proposal is designed to incorporate both telecommunications channels and the high quality pictures which one would expect from the BBC and the IBA.

This company, which this year will have a turnover of approximately £200m, would suffer irreparable damage by failure in our computing and data-processing equipment. Our computer-aided design and drafting deals with tens of millions of pounds' worth of complex project work.

Our subsidiary company, Arden Computer Services, Limited, not only deals with our costing and accountancy systems but also handles the entire accounts and payroll for many companies within a 35-mile radius of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Any failures on our equipment could have dire consequences on developments being undertaken by this company for many multinational companies at home and abroad; in Europe projects from Oslo to Athens; in the Middle East, the Far East and in the United States.

It is frightening to contemplate the consequential losses that would result in any failures. If Mr Gallon is so experienced and emphatic about the minimal dangers that would result from this installation perhaps the BBC are prepared to indemnify this company, its 1,000 employees and its clients against such costs which are liable to be incurred by interference from the proposed transmitter.

Yours faithfully,  
HOWARD HICKS (Chairman),  
BAKER (Research Director),  
The IDC Group plc,  
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire,  
July 1.

It seems astonishing that there is such a disparity between the "haves" and "have nots" in this country.

At a recent jumble sale here a handsome £160 was taken but at the end we handed over to a local dealer for an absolute pittance dozens of sacks of perfectly good clothing and household articles which nobody seemed to want.

Is there not a group in Liverpool who would be willing to make available whatever is left from jumble sales to those who now have to visit local tips?

Yours faithfully,  
PENELOPE RUDDLE,  
The Vicarage,  
East Malling,  
Mr Maidstone,  
Kent,  
July 3.

From Miss Damaris H. Jenkin  
Sir, I was appalled to read in today's *Times* that, in this wealthy country of ours, poor families on Merseyside are reduced to dependence on the local rubbish tip for clothing.

Many people must have clothes in good condition, which, for one reason or another, they no longer wear and would gladly give them to alleviate such shocking poverty. Surely it should be possible for one of the many charities to accept, store and distribute these to people reduced to such straits.

Yours faithfully,  
DAMARIS H. JENKIN,  
As from: Morvah Cottage,  
Fardley,  
Truro,  
Cornwall,  
July 3.

expect from the BBC and the IBA. Third, your correspondents ignore the growing international competition in all aspects of DBS. Irish and French and Luxembourg developments are well under way and if we assume, as I believe we should, the satellite footprints will lead to a partial open sky policy, in which domestic receivers can use overseas DBS, then we cannot leave the field clear to our competitors.

Dish aerials and all the necessary devices for transmission into the home do exist. Like any new product, their technology can be expected to improve as their costs fall, and those who are first in the field have world wide opportunities. Lastly, the Japanese success with video recorders has shown the way in which entertainment and business sales can rapidly outstrip all market expectations. The value of the UK DBS project to the satellite, broadcasting, receiver-development and receiver-production industries is crucial.

Above all, it is a development of the market place in which the taxpayers' money is not involved but which offers firm prospects for jobs and exports. The delay and rethinking which your correspondents urge upon us would not help either.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MARSHALL,  
House of Commons.

payrolls for many companies within a 35-mile radius of Stratford-upon-Avon. Any failures on our equipment could have dire consequences on developments being undertaken by this company for many multinational companies at home and abroad; in Europe projects from Oslo to Athens; in the Middle East, the Far East and in the United States.

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Yours faithfully,  
HOWARD HICKS (Chairman),  
BAKER (Research Director),  
The IDC Group plc,  
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire,  
July 1.

## Gunboat diplomacy

From Sir James Cable  
Sir, Your leader of July 3 regarded the arrest of the *Alisur Blanco* on the high seas in order to seize passengers supposed to be "wanted men" as a piratical act. So it may have been morally, but it has been done by most naval powers.

The adoption of this practice by the Royal Navy led to the war of 1812 with the United States, a consequence almost repeated in 1861, when a US warship removed two Confederate agents from the British ship *Trent*.

In both world wars neutral ships as well as passengers were repeatedly arrested, a noteworthy instance (because of the distance from the scene of the conflict) being the removal, 35 miles outside Tokyo, of 21 German passengers from the Japanese ship *Asama Maru* by HMS *Liverpool* on January 21, 1940.

Since 1945 instances of the seizure on the high seas of ships, passengers or cargo have involved many different navies and are too numerous for inclusion here. Like it or not, the days of gunboat diplomacy are not over.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES CABLE,  
8 Essex Close,  
Cambridge,  
July 3.

## Thorns in a crown of laurels

From G. B. H. Wightman  
Sir, Your leader (July 2) on the role of the Poet Laureate omits several of the important functions he is now expected to fulfil.

Poets indeed once had the job of recording the tribe's history, celebrating notable events, censuring enemies and praising their patrons. Some were also priests or shamans who foretold the future and sought to intercede with the gods. If there is a poet able to write on public themes and warn the nation he is unfortunately only partly equipped for the post.

Today the Poet Laureate is the chief representative of his art. He is expected to appear on television, to give numerous interviews, and to answer thousands of letters. Poets hope that he will act as their steward and obtain a proper deal for poetry which, for over 15 years, has suffered the maladministration of the Arts Council's literature department. (It is worth recalling that the Arts Council's recent policy document, ironically entitled *The Glory of the Garden*, states that it cannot justify its support for literature and plans to halve its present tiny allocation.)

It is obvious therefore that the post of Poet Laureate is no sinecure. Consequently there is a case for giving the Poet Laureate an office, say at the Poetry Society, and paying an appropriate salary with appropriate expenses which will cover the cost of a secretary and so on.

As a benchmark he should have the same financial entitlements as an MP. There is also a case for the post being held for a set duration of seven years. The contemporary responsibilities of the Poet Laureate should, of course, have a bearing on the choice of the successful candidate.

Yours faithfully,  
G. B. H. WIGHTMAN,  
11 Bramham Gardens, SW5,  
July 3.

## The Dalai Lama

From Mr Phuntso Wangyal  
Sir, I refer to your article of July 5, "Tibetans' warning to Hongkong". Remarks reported as having been made by Kalon Tashi Wangyal, who is not his Holiness the Dalai Lama's "chief minister" but Home Minister in the Tibetan Government-in-Exile and his holiness' representative in Delhi, represent only his personal opinion.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama had no statement at all to make about Hongkong, a matter which he regards as being solely an issue between the British Government and China.

Yours faithfully,  
PHUNTSO WANGYAL,  
Office of the Dalai Lama for Europe,  
3 Heathcote Court,  
Strand, WC2,  
July 5.

## And did those feet?

From Mrs Mavis Brown-Humes  
Sir, Last week I was one of many Women's Institute members helping at the WI Life and Leisure Exhibition at Olympia.

Travelling on a crowded Tube one morning I stood between an immaculately turned-out city gent and a coloured man clad in dirty jeans and sweater. A seat became vacant but, before I could reach it, two neatly-shod feet strode past me and the elegant vision sat down.

Minutes later another seat became vacant and the coloured gentleman stood to one side and politely enquired if I would care to sit down. Unshaven and unkempt he may have been, but it will be his "countenance divine" I shall think of next time I sing "Jerusalem".

Yours faithfully,  
MAVIS BROWN-HUMES,  
Prospect House,  
Hamsterley,  
Bishop Auckland,  
Co Durham,  
July 3.

## Water everywhere

From Mrs Margaret Marshall  
Sir, In August, 1980, we visited the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) museum in Washington, DC, and were duly impressed with the marvels of the space age and the achievements of American technology.

Then came a sudden thunderstorm and the rain poured through the roof. Out came plastic buckets and we decided technology could not achieve perfection after all!

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET MARSHALL,  
2 Cairnshill Avenue,  
Belfast,  
June 27.

## A dog's life

From Mr J. K. Brennan  
Sir, I share Mr A. C. Norfolk's admiration (June 29) for the skill of our veterinary colleagues.

However, if Mr Norfolk has the recuperative powers of his Labrador he would probably do as well with a surgeon as with a vet should he be unfortunately involved in a shooting accident, unless mortally wounded, when he would be better with a vet.

Yours,  
J. K. BRENNAN,  
1 Brompton Terrace,  
Perth, Scotland

From Mrs A. J. W. Nicholls  
Sir, How shocking that a qualified vet should assist a qualified doctor (report, June 27). Which is the more honourable profession? Try turning each noun into a verb - to vet or to doctor? Now you have the answer.

Yours faithfully,  
C. MARY NICHOLLS,  
36 Southern Reach,  
Mulbarton,  
Norfolk.







**14**  
Travel: Where Islam and Christianity meet - Michael Watkins takes a coach trip in Andalusia; travel news

**16, 17**  
Travel: Fare deals on the home front: Drink: July wines; Values goes on a picnic; and In the Garden

# THE TIMES Saturday

**18, 19**  
Summer Books: Pick of the holiday reading; Family Life looks at monkey business; Chess, Bridge and Crossword

**21, 22**  
The Week: Critics' guide to television, opera, dance, films, theatre, concerts, radio, sport, auctions and festivals

7-13 JULY 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Ronald Faux pays his respects to the new kings of the road - magnificent monsters with the power to achieve breathtaking speeds

## Big bikes

Power, raw mechanical power and plenty of it, is the attraction of the big bikes. Consider this: to reach 50mph, high-performance production motorcycles are travelling at 120mph with more to come.

But who buys them in a country with a 70mph speed limit? According to the sales manager of one company specializing in big bikes, the market has never been so diverse nor so perverse. The last king of the road for speed and acceleration was deposited when road tests disclosed another model that was 0.1 of a second faster; no one wanted to know the fallen monarch.

Seventeen-year-olds with a new licence can buy such machines but, mercifully, they are usually seen off by the £1,200 insurance premium; by the age of 25, the premium will have dropped to £330. Mr Ian Henderson, of Better Bikes in Edinburgh, says: "Among our customers we have some youngsters who are tremendously keen and run a 1,000cc machine with little over to spend on anything else. We also have quite a few middle-aged enthusiasts who have a big bike, often something quietly powerful like a BMW, as alternative transport for fine days."

Professional people who simply enjoy riding motorcycles. And now the push-button starter has removed the need for man-handling, a surprising number of riders beneath the sexless leathers and black-visored helmets turn out to be women.

I have always preferred a touring machine with a throaty appetite for covering distance to an out-and-out racer - a good hunter rather than something that would win at Ascot. Manufacturers do offer some machines that are a hybrid of the two and allow the rider to heap on the camping gear and set off for the toe of Italy admirably self-contained on transport that is both exhilarating and cheap.

But the parent in me raises a cautionary finger. Motorcycles may be a good way of getting about; no doubt such thoughtful folk as T. E. Lawrence would have agreed, but we all know what happened to him and his Brough Superior. In his day traffic was light, surely there is no place on a modern, crowded road for something so vulnerable.

Not so, we motorcyclists insist. Badly driven, any bike is lethal. Driven with care, a powerful machine has the acceleration, braking power and manoeuvrability to escape many hazards that would present a car driver with severe problems. In a head-on collision the car driver has a better chance of surviving, but it is astonishing how being as vulnerable as an egg concentrates attention and improves anticipation. Motorcyclists are generally optimists and I have met several who regard the edge of danger as a challenge rather than a deterrent. Perhaps that is the difference.

### Best of British gone forever

Early big bikes were often brutish and nearly always British. They could kick like mules and in the days before push-button starters the owner of any machine that was hard to fire developed a disproportionately strong right leg. My experience was that they wheezed, exploded and sprayed oil. The only fuel gauge was a sudden silence and any critical drop in oil pressure was signalled by seizure. The British motorcycle industry is virtually dead, alas, with the great names of BSA, Matchless, Ariel and Velocette consigned to history. Triumph, we hear, clings on, Huskvarna jitters heavily, but the big bikes these days are foreign.

I recently tried out three new-generation machines in the big bike range and discovered how technical excellence has brought motorcycling into a new dimension of comfort and performance. The K100 series of BMW machines are a radical change in design. The company is renowned for the tireless, flat-twin motorcycles, but the K100 is set to rank as an improvement on the unimprovable. It would be wrong to call this new model a two-wheeled car although the four-cylinder, water-cooled engine and shaft drive make the comparison a tempting one. The K100 is a thoroughbred of brilliant conception.

The engine is a little less than 1,000cc and the cylinders lie horizontally in-line giving a low centre of gravity and easy access. The rear wheel is suspended from a single arm and the four cylinders discharge into one exhaust. A fairing of superb design makes high-speed

travel comfortable. I had no nostalgia for the time when sustained high speed gave the sensation that my arms were being eased from their sockets or for the fairing with such aerodynamic qualities that at 70mph it started to fly.

Instrumentation is excellent on the BMW. Switches fall naturally to thumb tip, lights warn of engine problems or imminent fuel shortage. Digital read-out tells you the time of day and which of the five gears you have engaged. The only problems of first acquaintance were an awkwardly adjusted gear selector and the sensation at low speeds that this was indeed a weighty machine.

The Harley-Davidson has surely the deepest roots in tradition of any motorcycle now being produced. Steve Rhodes, a Harley enthusiast and dealer in Bradford, patted the candy red, capacious tank of a gleaming FXRT and told me: "This is a piece of history. There are parts of this machine which have not changed since 1922". The big, thumping V-twin rumbles on - "one bang between lamp posts" was how another Harley owner described the sound of his engine.

### A hunk of thunder with panache

Driving out of Bradford on a Harley-Davidson had the incongruous air of departing from Houston in a tram. They are splendidly ostentatious machines which Steve Rhodes says appeal equally to the opposite ends of the market. They are at once a status symbol for the young executive and a leisure machine for flinty-eyed types in immaculate cut leathers. They are also the cult transport for Hell's Angels. Accessories for Harley enthusiasts seem to include swastikas, iron crosses and crash helmets modelled on the headgear of a soldier in the Kaiser's army.

Mystique apart, the Harley-Davidson is an excellent, finely-engineered and reliable machine that has been tested by time and a host of traffic police. It is low slung which makes it easier to control in traffic despite its formidable weight. There are 18 different models available, including a 1,340cc hunk of thunder which features a "soft tail". That may sound like a disease suffered by parrots but in fact is a method of shock-absorbing the rear wheel whilst giving the appearance of an authentic, unsprung, spine-jarring frame. Harley-Davidson enthusiasts are a bit like that, but their bikes have panache and although expensive they maintain their value well.

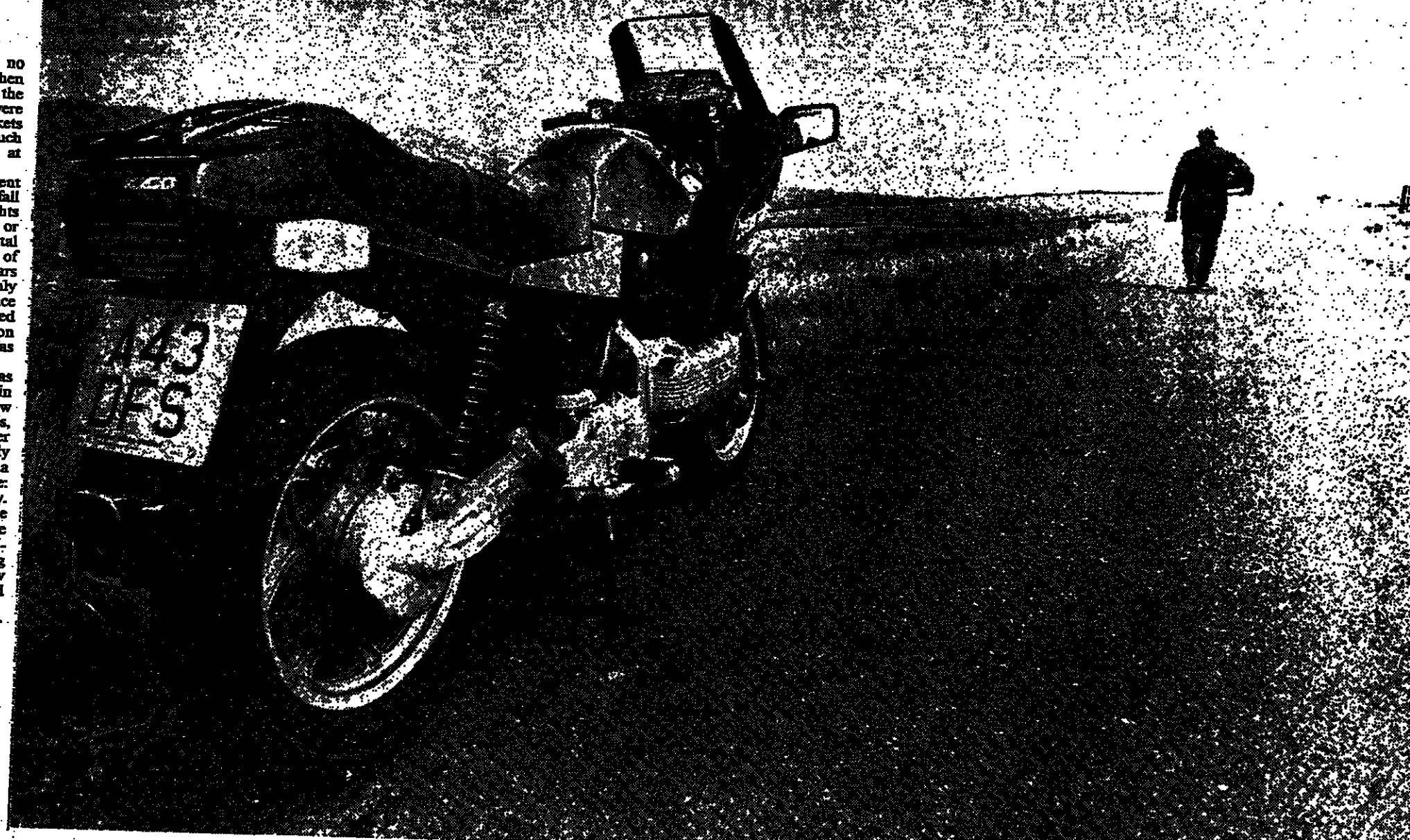
Monday: Had just taken off my bicycle clips this morning when the editor called me into his office. "I want you to test ride some motorcycles," he said. "Whoopie!", I said, temporarily withholding the information that the only motorbike I had ever been on was the back of a teenage heartthrob's in 1970, and already picturing myself roaring along the M4 clad in black leather. "... how big? 500cc? 1000cc?" "Mopeds," he said firmly. "For the woman about town."

It seems that the motorbike industry is trying to lure reluctant women commuters on to two wheels by introducing smaller motor-bikes in bright, appealing colours, with jolly names and "feminine" accessories such as mudguards and shopping baskets, and by pointing out that they are really such simple machines that even a woman, if not a fool, could ride them. "So I know you'd be the person to try them out", the editor said.

Tuesday: 9.30am. My first day off to work on motorized wheels. It has dawned fair and bright so, with a twinge of regret, I leave my newly acquired, electric-blue, all-in-one, nylon biking suit unworn in the wardrobe for a rainy day and sail forth in what I deem appropriate dress for the "woman about town" - light frock, high heels, executive briefcase.

I have chosen the BSA Easy Rider to start on, partly for patriotic reasons and partly because, as the name implies, it should be quite easy to handle. Any association it conjures up which appears in the film of the same name is entirely misplaced. The BSA is a neat little 500cc model with large narrow wheels, bicycle-type frame, featuring a parcel rack (for the executive briefcase), and a kick start.

Perhaps I have misread the instructions - or there is something wrong with my technique, because I have some difficulty operating the last-mentioned



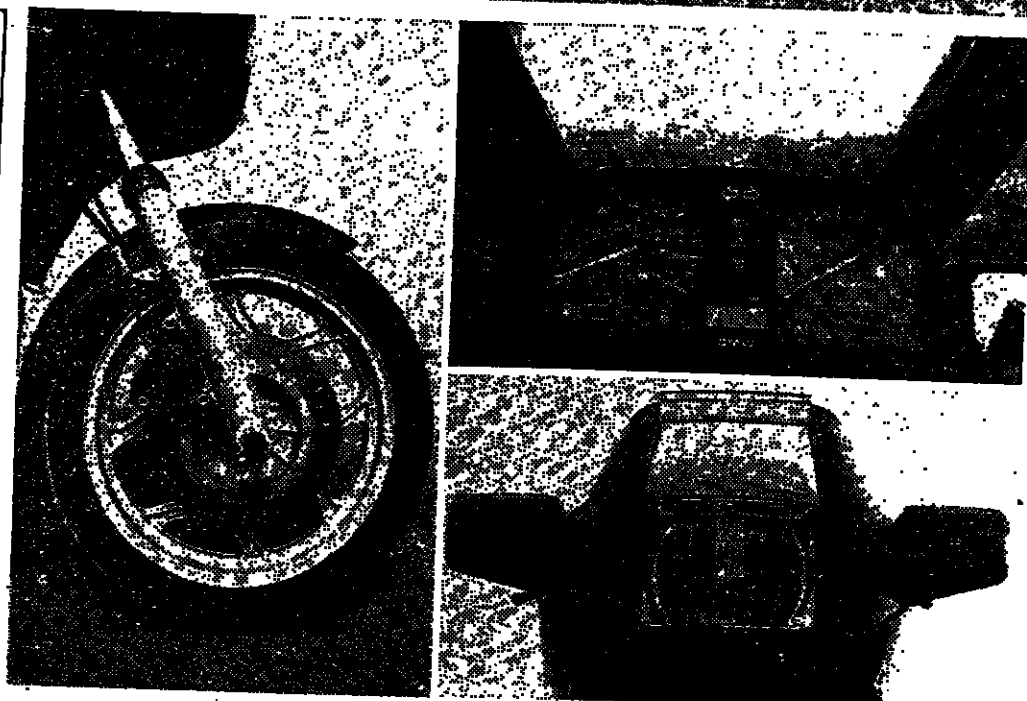
	HARLEY-DAVIDSON FXRT	KAWASAKI GPz 900R	BMW K100 RS
Top speed mph	100	158	132
Quarter mile	Standing mile		
Time secs	15.7	11.9	12.32
Speed mph	81.3	121.2	100.4
Fuel consumption			
Average	48	42	50
Driven hard	42	37	41
Price	£8,139	£3,199	RS £4,250 basic £3,290

The Japanese, of course, are the giants among big bike producers. The technical advances they introduced obliterated the British industry and the current performance champion among the powerful machines is the Kawasaki GPz900R. It won the first three places in the competition for production models in the recent Isle of Man TT races. With a top speed of 160mph on the clock and the ability to reach 60mph in 2.9 seconds, it surely ranks as the

fastest two-wheeler to leave any factory gates for the open market. The in-line four cylinder engine develops 115bhp. The test ride was from Edinburgh to Moffat on the road that runs near the source of the Tweed. It might have been designed for motorcycling with its long climbs, straights and undulating bends cutting through spectacular scenery. On this time machine the test did not last long and with the revs humming towards 10,000 I

remembered T. E. Lawrence's account of a race between his Brough and a bi-plane that happened to be flying alongside the road. The telegraph posts had gone past so quickly that they formed the impression of a solid fence. I cannot remember who won, but on the Kawasaki the competition would have been unfair.

© Bikes courtesy of Better Bikes, Edinburgh (031 667 9177) and Steve Rhodes Motorcycles, Bradford (0274 733746).



Dream machines: A new generation of bikes, including the Kawasaki K100 (top)

Trudi Braun tests the new theory that a woman's place is on a moped

## ... small bikes



Mighty moped: Honda Stream

decide to wear my pencil skirt on it to work. Have not been able to wear this when riding a bicycle as it is impossible to get the knees wide enough apart to pedal. This should be no problem on the scooter. It is. I have forgotten that when stopping or weaving through traffic, it is vital to be able to plant both feet on the ground to control the bike properly. After several near misses on the Euston Road, hitch skirt up

round my waist and improvise with a scarf to preserve modesty.

Monday: The Honda Stream has to be seen to be believed. This bright red monster moped has a spacebike front, with opening bonnet and two back wheels, attached to the front by an articulated joint. The man from Honda assures me that although the bike may feel a bit funny at first, it really is very stable. I needn't worry about the rear wheels lifting off the ground when cornering as the articulated joint prevents this. "Good", I say, wondering why I haven't worried about this before.

Certainly the sitting position with legs out in front (I really think the Stream has missed its vocation as a car) feels somewhat exposed, not to say silly. The bike seems to sway a lot, too, and whenever it goes over a bump, the back section skitters about with a crablike lift of its own.

Friday: Think I have met my Waterloo. After 10 days' apprenticeship with the small fry, I decided yesterday that I was ready for the big one - the 79cc Yamaha Townmate - a real motorbike, at 13st weighing half as much again as me, with shaft drive and three gears. I had a little trouble with the gears at first.

Unfortunately I must have bent the gear pedal when I dropped the bike while heaving it back on to its stand, because this morning, as I was roaring away from the first set of traffic lights, there was a horrible crunching and grinding sound. The pedal had become jammed against the drive case. However, it turned out to be possible to continue to change gear by manipulating my ankle on the pedal like Jane Fonda doing a workout.

Proceeded in this fashion, and all would have been well had I not made the mistake of stopping for an old man on a zebra crossing - and stalling. Now, the Townmate has a rather unresponsive kick start, and I have to confess I had not yet succeeded in starting it unaided. Nor did I now. After several pedestrians had been enlisted to try their luck with the starter pedal, as in some fairground game, and failed, I sought professional help at a nearby garage where the second mechanic who tried succeeded in bringing the engine to life.

The bike stalled for the second time on the final right-hand turn before the office. It is a rather narrow turn and within seconds a line of hooting commuters formed. Shamefacedly dismounted and wheeled the bike around the corner to apply myself to the starter pedal again in the hopes of a quiet miracle. Unfortunately the camber is very steep just there. Had time to catch a glimpse of my editor driving by as 13st of motorbike pulled me headfirst into the gutter.

Monday: Blissful bicycle ride to work this morning, appreciating the twitter of birdsong in Regent's Park, sailing along the pavement past the lines of traffic and taking a delightful short cut through University College. Arrive at work relaxed, on time - and dry, in spite of a light shower, as I have taken the precaution of wearing my all-nylon suit. What an excellent buy that was. Perhaps I'll treat myself to a new bicycle basket next.

Recommended retail prices (including car tax and VAT): BSA Easy Rider (moped, kick-start version) £279; Suzuki GS500 Roadie (moped, kick-start version) £399 (three-wheeled moped, electric-start) £745; Yamaha Townmate (79cc motorbike, four-stroke, shaft-drive, kick-start) £535. All can be fitted with extras such as windscreen and box-carrier.

© Road tax is an extra £9 a year for mopeds and motorbikes up to

150cc. Comprehensive insurance starts at about £18.50 for a moped for riders aged 20 and over, and at about £25 for an 80cc motorbike for a rider aged between 30 and 40 in central London.

Anyone with a full car licence can ride a legally defined moped without L-plates, and a motorbike of up to 125cc (and not more than 12bhp) with L-plates, without ever having to take a test. But unless you can get a lot of practice on quiet roads, a Star Riders

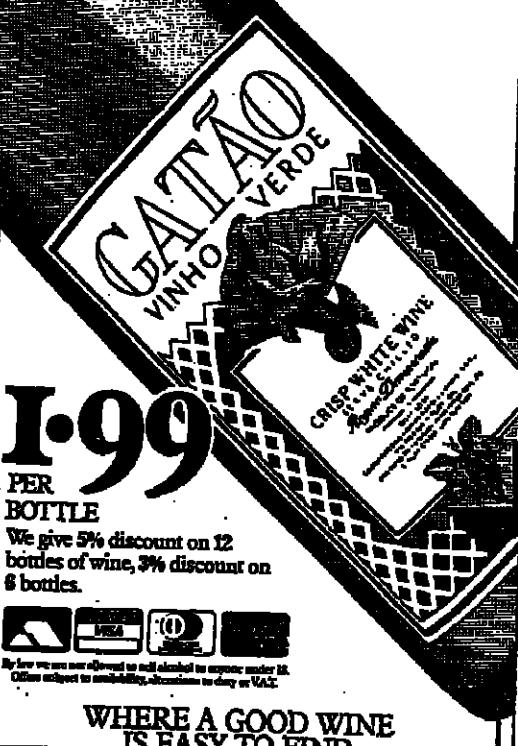
instruction course (nationwide, telephone 021 742 4296 for your nearest centre) is well worth considering if you want to get straight on to a bike of 70cc or more. Non-drivers can ride a moped indefinitely on a provisional motorcycle licence but need to pass the motorcycle test within two years if they want to ride anything larger.

© Bikes (01-741 2150) for any information about motorcycles and mopeds.

## THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY

### JULY WINE OF THE MONTH GATÃO VINHO VERDE

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TRAVEL 1

Gypsies, geraniums and gardens... Michael Watkins explores the other heart of Spain, at the crossroads of Islam and Christianity

# Glories of the golden age of Andalusia

Five miles from Malaga our tour guide started putting the wind up us. You'd have thought we were a platoon of SAS infiltrating Khmer Rouge territory instead of a coach-load of Thomas Cookers rolling towards Granada. He was telling us about a participant in the previous week's coach journey through Andalusia, Mrs Bottomshaw by name, a "lovely lady", he announced in tones of ringing insincerity.

Overcome by the sensuous auras of the Alhambra - its texture, colour, sense of quiet surrender - she had temporarily lowered her guard. Long enough for her neckpiece to be nicked by a pickpocket. She had, our guide related, remained in a "state of shock" for the rest of her holiday; and he could not warn us enough of the felonious minefields which lay ahead. (In fact a few of us witnessed a daring handbag snatch in our Cordoba hotel foyer; so perhaps he could be excused hamming up his act.)

To me Castile and Galicia are the heart of Spain: a landscape, Unamuno wrote, which is for monotheism, not pantheism. God is a precise thing, like a stone. Christ is a real man bleeding; and the blood of his wounds stains the mother's cheek as she leans against him: the Virgin is a real village girl. "Nachemos, luchamos, morimos": "We are born, we fight, and we die." That is all that matters.

Others have it that Andalusia is the true heart. Named after a Moorish general, Al Andalus, it is the home of flamenco; home too of Manolete, El Cordobes, Lagartijo - so the claim is not without evidence. The Phoenicians came to these parts, Romans too, followed by the Visigoths; but it was the Moors who created the golden age of Andalusia.

The first time I saw the Alhambra, enthroned upon its crag, was under a full moon; and it seemed, in that pellucid light, as if it was arrested in flight somewhere between heaven and earth. It gave meaning to the lines I had read earlier, by Francisco de Icaza, inscribed on the Alcazaba's Watchtower: "Dale limosna, mujer, que no hay la vida nada como le pena de ser ciego en Granada". Give him alms, woman, for there is nothing in life, nothing, so bad as to be blind in Granada.

There is another saying, if you can bear a further scrap of Spanish: "Todo es posible en Granada". "Anything is possible in Granada". Except punctuality. Punctuality in Granada is as rare as a £3 note. I'd give post offices a wide berth, too. Every time you go to buy a post card stamp for a friend in Frinton, there is a witness a daring handbag snatch in our Cordoba hotel foyer; so perhaps he could be excused hamming up his act.)

The Moors left a delicate touch on Granada, filigree and fantastic. The Alhambra is enchantment, leaving as much to the imagination as a volume of the Arabian Nights... as a page of Virginia Woolf. Remember Orlando? The sun rose and sank. The lover loved and left. And what the poets said in rhyme, the young translated into practice. Girls were as roses, and their seasons were short as the flowers'. Plucked they must be before nightfall; for the day was brief and the day was all. This is what the Alhambra says to me repeating the phrases carelessly from a great distance, like a lover exiled.

What Los Reyes Catolicos said is quite different, pounded out in raised voices. Look at the Carthusian Monastery, a fine, fine, building, but gilded and embellished to distraction; which is precisely what happens: the senses are so distracted by baroque that nothing is left to fancy. If you can find one unadorned square-foot in either the sacristy or the sacrum, I'll steal a Velazquez for you to hang there. The Spanish never did learn the light touch. No, that's not fair

when you consider the music of Manuel de Falla, of Enrique Granados.

A prow through the cobbled alleys of Albacin, separated from the Alhambra by a gorge, should lift your heart. It is the Moorish quarter of Granada, where there is madness and the scent of jasmine, where some gypsies still live in caves. In the Plaza san Bartolome there are geraniums, summer birdcages and ceramics. Mirador de San Nicolas has a view of the Alhambra second to none and it has twisted vines and barking dogs and one or two solar-panels on roofs 500 years old. Along the road to Cordoba sun flowers were trying to attract those costly rays as well. Sun flowers, olive groves, sugar beet, barley, all the way to where, beneath the Roman Bridge - the Puente Romano - the Guadalquivir flowed sluggish as gravel.

The tourists flowed pretty sluggishly too, punch-drunk with summer heat that can bubble to 50°C. That's 120°F. No wonder the nearby town of Ecija, where records fracture and break, is known as the "frying pan of Europe". They can fry eggs on the pavements of Ecija, though why, with kitchens at home, they should consider this alternative means of cooking is above my head.

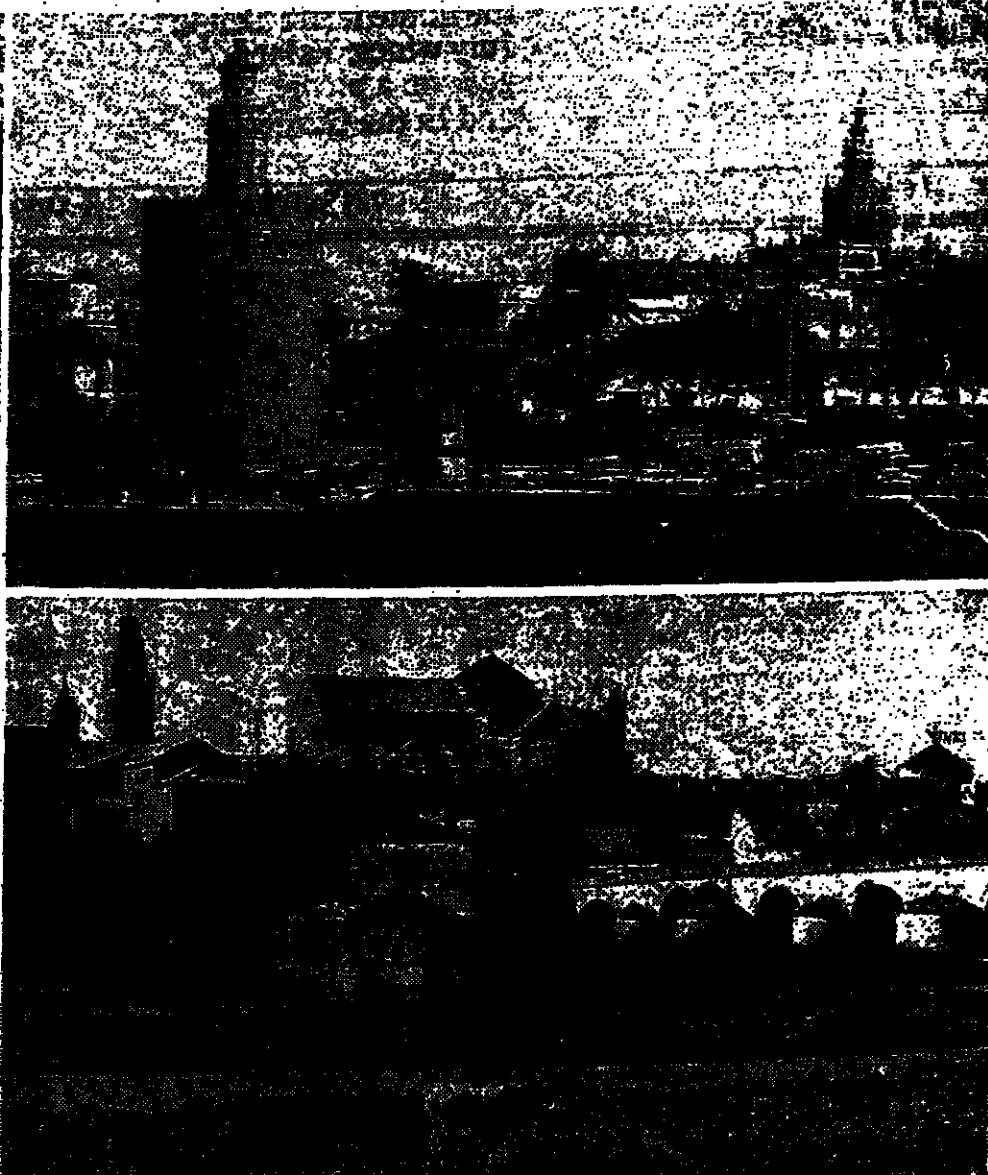
Cordoba is an oil town - an olive oil town - with repressed bellicose tendencies if one sheepish example of wall graffiti is anything to go by: "Gibraltar Español". It read above a scratched cave-drawing of pyramidal design. The artist, confused no doubt, should read "Guide for the Perplexed" written by the Jewish philosopher Maimonides, born here in 1135. There is a statue of him, a gentle work, in the Plaza Tiberiades of the Jewish quarter.

In Cordoba we stood in Islam watching, a pace or so away, mass celebrated in Christendom; for La Mezquita, masterpiece of Moorish-Spanish architecture, was first a mosque, then a cathedral, the weight of Gothic-Renaissance enclosing Moorish delicacy. Above a forest of marble pillars, spanned by red and white Visigothic arches, soars the Church of Christ. One building simply swallowed the other in a huge gulp, as the whale swallowed Jonah.

In the mosque God is not visible; in the cathedral His name is written large in effigy, in oils, constant as the commandments; persistent as the religious souvenir shops. The God of Islam turns his profile towards the shadow, so that one



Soaring arches, dreaming southern spires: The Alhambra, Granada's delicate Moorish palace; the Golden Tower of Seville (top right) and the oil town of Cordoba



has to search harder, tilting at imponderables as Don Quixote tilted at windmills.

The coach ground into fifth gear, approaching Seville from the plains where brave bulls are reared and schooled for their 20 minutes' glory and extinction. They are Spain's eternal identity of savage pride and single pre-ordained conclusion. Aficionados of the corrida are, in a way, watching the spectacle of their own death. They take it seriously because dying is a serious matter; which is why they jeer the bulls that refuse to fight, applauding the animal which is undefeated until the moment of truth when, blinded by his own blood, he charges the muleta for the last time. A man can relate to death in the afternoon: those 20 minutes tell his own story.

In Seville the summer sun is an enemy from whom one ducks, dodges and side-steps, clinging to shade. Sunset is the daily miracle when chairs are brought out into narrow alleys and heated conversations are held in fountain-cooled patios. It happens outside No. 7 Vida, where Rossini's barber was in business. It happens in the Jardines de Mutillo, too, for this

was the painter's city; you can see his work, with Goya's and Zurbaran's, in the cathedral where Christopher Columbus's bones are interred.

It was the celebration of Corpus Christi when our coach drew into the wide, palm-fringed streets of Seville where, despite the wilting heat, there is a certain frothiness of character. You can see how it inspired Sheffield wouldn't have half the zip.

Next morning I stood in the cathedral, third largest in the world, and felt nothing: I was lost in space. There was a faint blueish haze which seemed to linger, as cigarette smoke does

at a party when the last guest has gone. The side chapels were barred and gated. A I walked, my shadow was stretched on a rack of light from a high broken pane; and I heard sulphurous whispers of confession, small sins spilling into the nave. Wax drips from the Corpus Christi candles looked like dried blood, and a drone of prayer from the choir stalls sounded like insects murmuring in the harvest heat. But, as you see, everything was like something else, without a life-force of its own.

He is such a clever fellow, old Thomas Cook, saving the best till last. From Seville the coach climbed into the hills of the Serrania de Ronda, Hispanic

majesty at its most daunting. Ronda is the summit of an immense rock looking over deep gorges, surrounded by an amphitheatre of mountains.

Pliny and Ptolemy mentioned "Arunda". The Moors fought for it the Marquis of Cadiz captured it for his Christian king. In the eighteenth century Don Francisco Romero became the first man to fight the bull on foot using a small red cape, the muleta. Killing 5,530 bulls without being gored; and in the twentieth century, each Saturday at midday from April until November, 35 or so Cookers scale the heights of Ronda from the west face in time to lunch off ga-pacho at

the family-run Hotel Polo.

In Ronda look at Romero's bullring, still in use, the power of prayer being greater at higher altitudes. There is the Isabella facade of the San Francisco Monastery; the "hanging houses" of the Tajo; and Don Miguel's restaurant, more remarkable for its position than its sauces. Soldiers on weekend passes from the barracks patrol the streets; they have a lean and hungry look, it wouldn't do to mix with them in midnight bars.

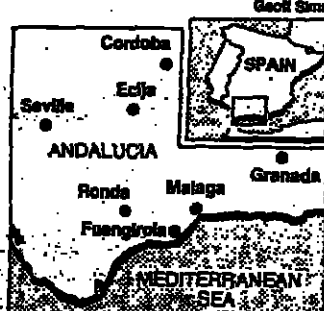
And never forget the doors, windows and wrought iron balconies of Andalusia: these are the things to look at, every day perfection taken as much for granted as Dallas, dubbed in Spanish. The world and Thomas Cook have come to ancient Ronda, with this the gist and sum of it, what earthly good can come of it?

Next day the coach lowered us on the Costa del Whitsit, at a place called Fuengirola. Here, said the guide, Mrs Bottomshaw had convalesced miraculously because it reminded her of home. Sadly, I never investigated the healing properties of Fuengirola. I had a plane to catch.

## TRAVEL NOTES

The Thomas Cook coach tour of Andalusia takes seven days, from Sun to Sun, with flights from Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham. The cost per person of £225 (varying slightly according to season) includes flights, transfers, hotels, breakfast and dinner, tips. It does not include

optional tours, or tips to the tour guide and driver, who do depend on such generosity. For a further £70 you can take a second week in Fuengirola: hotel, breakfast and dinner included. Hotels along the route described are modest and usually reliable. July and August temperatures should be avoided if heat bothers you. You can lunch for less than half the price you would pay in England. The Thomas Cook Coach and Touring Lakes and Mountains brochures sets it out clearly.



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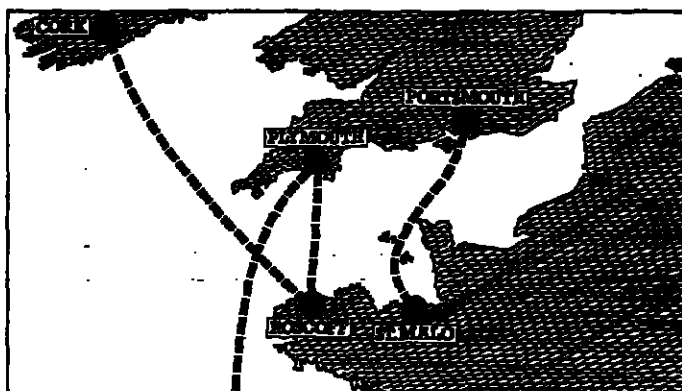
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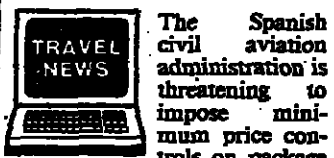
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## Fly in the Spanish holiday ointment



The Spanish civil aviation administration is threatening to impose minimum price controls on package charter flights into the country. Price controls on packages were abandoned by the British civil aviation authority almost 12 years ago and will be resisted by British tour-operating companies, which feel that the new Spanish move is designed to protect the national scheduled airline, Iberia.

Under newly-published Spanish regulations for charter flights, the civil aviation administration in Madrid is authorized to fix a minimum price for incoming package tours which would be set at 95 per cent of the lowest applicable scheduled air fare.

British tour operators will also be seeking clarification from the Spanish authorities on another clause in the new regulations which says that holiday accommodation in Spain must be in "authorized hotels", a requirement which appears to exclude self-catering accommodation.

In another contentious new regulation, the Spanish civil aviation administration says that the minimum duration of a charter-based holiday must be seven days. One major tour operator, Thomson Holidays, has already announced a programme of three or four-night breaks in Spain next winter.

### Liquids and leisure

Wine-buying in France usually means a hurried expedition to the hypermarket during a day trip, but Brittany Ferries is launching a more relaxed series of tours this summer for the serious wine-lover. The four-day trips, with a crossing from Portsmouth to St Malo, will take in the Bordeaux, Medoc or Loire Valley wine-growing regions and participants will be

### able to visit châteaux and buy their wine at producers' prices.

They will not actually have to pay for their purchases until they return to Portsmouth; the ferry company will make the initial payment and will arrange transport of up to 12 cases per person back to Portsmouth, where it will also look after customs clearance and duty payments. Prices start at £116. A leaflet is available from Brittany Ferries Wine Tours, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8RU (0705 827701).

### Breaks, breakfast and BR

Overnight rail packages from London to Edinburgh are being organized this summer by Superbreak Mini-Holidays in conjunction with British Rail. Return sleeper prices start at £69 per person in a shared compartment or £96 in a single compartment, and full breakfasts at the North British Hotel in Edinburgh and the Great Northern Hotel at King's Cross are included in the price. The offer is available from now until September 1 on weekday departures and from August 10 to September 2 at weekends. The packages cover

the period of the Edinburgh Festival; when hotel accommodation in the city is scarce. Information from travel agents or from Superbreak Mini-Holidays (01-278 9646/4211).

### Portugal - land of plenty

Portugal is the destination likely to give British holiday-makers the best value for money this year, according to a new survey by the Thomas Cook travel agency chain. The company has calculated that a couple would spend £134.65 during a week in Portugal on a "basket" of purchases, including dinner with wine each evening, light refreshment every day, a roll of film, sunscreen, postcards, car hire and petrol. The same would cost £165.11 in mainland Spain, £252.90 in Italy or £260.80 in Turkey. The Greek Government has emphasized that its decision to deny entry to visitors with passports indicating that they have visited the Turkish-controlled zone of Cyprus (this column June 23) applies only to those who have been to the area since November 15, 1983.

Philip Ray

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## TRAVEL 2



Yesterday's air travel: Line up at Croydon Airport in 1935

## Passenger is king of the air routes in Britain



Britons are currently enjoying the world's most competitively priced domestic air travel outside North America. The passenger is king, fares are at rock bottom yet the standard of service has never been higher.

Until recently the airlines adopted a "take it or leave it" attitude, with domestic fares priced for the businessman rather than the pleasure traveller. There was no incentive to change the system since the "big two" British Airways and Heathrow and British Caledonian from Gatwick, faced no competition.

The crunch came just over a year ago when the Government allowed British Midland Airways (BMA) to compete alongside BA's shuttle flights between London Heathrow and Glasgow, Edinburgh and later, Belfast.

BMA introduced cheaper fares on the three main trunk routes yet continued to offer full in-flight service into the bargain. At that time BA's shuttle flights offered no catering at all so not surprisingly BMA quickly captured a third of the market.

Passengers on these routes benefited yet again when BA was forced to launch a revamped Super Shuttle - better

service at no extra cost - and then froze all domestic fares for the foreseeable future.

Further routes taken on by Dan Air (with the Government's blessing) to destinations such as Newcastle, Aberdeen, Belfast and Inverness have provided an incentive for more creative fares on other services.

Domestic air travel nowadays is keenly priced, especially if you choose the airline and flight carefully. In some cases you can fly for the same price or less than the full second-class rail fare and certainly for quite a bit less than first-class. Flights to Eire, however, are classified as international and therefore there is a price competition between the airlines. Fares remain restrictive and expensive; for example, you can fly to Belfast whenever you like with BMA for £74 return whereas the same flights to Dublin with BA or Aer Lingus cost £130.

The best buys are:

● BMA's unrestricted £37 one-way (return double) Heathrow/Belfast fare, and their £37 off-peak "Key Fare" to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

● BA's £58 return Shuttle Apex fare to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

● Dan Air's £66 return Gatwick/Belfast "Late Saver" fare.

Alex McWhirter

The author is Travel Editor of Business Traveller.

## Options on main routes from London Heathrow

	Airline	Normal one-way	Off-peak one-way	Stand-by one-way	Return	Apex return
Aberdeen	BA	£56	£45.50	£37	£92	£79
Belfast	BA	£56	£39	£35	£92	£79
	BMA	£55	£37	£37	£96	£79
Edinburgh	BA	£56	£44	£36	£96	£58
Glasgow	BMA	£55	£37	£37	£96	£79
Newcastle	BA	£47.50	£37/£41	£37	£83	£75
Jersey	BA	£44	£37	£30/£36	£73	£44
Manchester	BA	£55.50	£36	£34	£74	£63

Normal one-way: No restrictions.

Off-peak: Valid for selected flights only, except BMA to Belfast where the £37 fare is valid on all flights until September. Tickets must be bought before arrival at the airport.

Stand-by: Valid on selected flights only. Check with the airline.

Excursion: Minimum stay Saturday night, maximum one month. Restricted flights.

Apex: Book 14 days ahead. Minimum stay Saturday night (except BA's £58 Shuttle Apex), maximum one month. Restricted flights.

## Options on main routes from London Gatwick

	Airline	Normal one-way	Excursion one-way	Apex one-way	Return	Stand-by one-way
Aberdeen	Dan Air	£70	£50	£40	£140	£70
Belfast	BA	£56	£39	£35	£92	£79
Edinburgh	B.Cal	£59	£40	£34	£94	£56
Glasgow	DA	£55	£44	£35	£90 (Ftn only)	£56
Newcastle	DA	£40	£35	£35	£70 (Ftn only)	£56
Jersey	DA	£44	£34	£33	£72/£86	£56
Manchester	B.Cal	£46	£34	£33	£72/£86	£56

One-way excursions: Capacity controlled, otherwise no other restrictions. For other fares, restrictions similar to those from Heathrow. The exception is Dan Air's £56 excursion to Belfast when you have to book within 14 days of departure.

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WORLD AIRWAYS

## The Chelsea Physic Garden

## Haven of peace yields its secrets

On a secluded site within shouting distance of the River Thames is a 300-year-old haven of peace and tranquillity which has hitherto been hidden from all but a select few: the Chelsea Physic Garden. Now, happily, it has been thrown open to the masses for two afternoons each week, on the initiative of a new board of Trustees, who were appointed last year. The result has been worth waiting for.

The garden, set up in 1673, has always been used for botanical research and this will continue. But as well as containing much of special interest to the serious student, it has a great deal to entice the ordinary person.

The standard of maintenance is high and I was impressed by its general appearance, although the plants looked as though they could do with some water. One cautionary word: plants are set out with a sense of space so that there is much more bare ground than you would see in public parks: the average gardener should not go with the intention of seeing how they might be fitted into their own small plots.

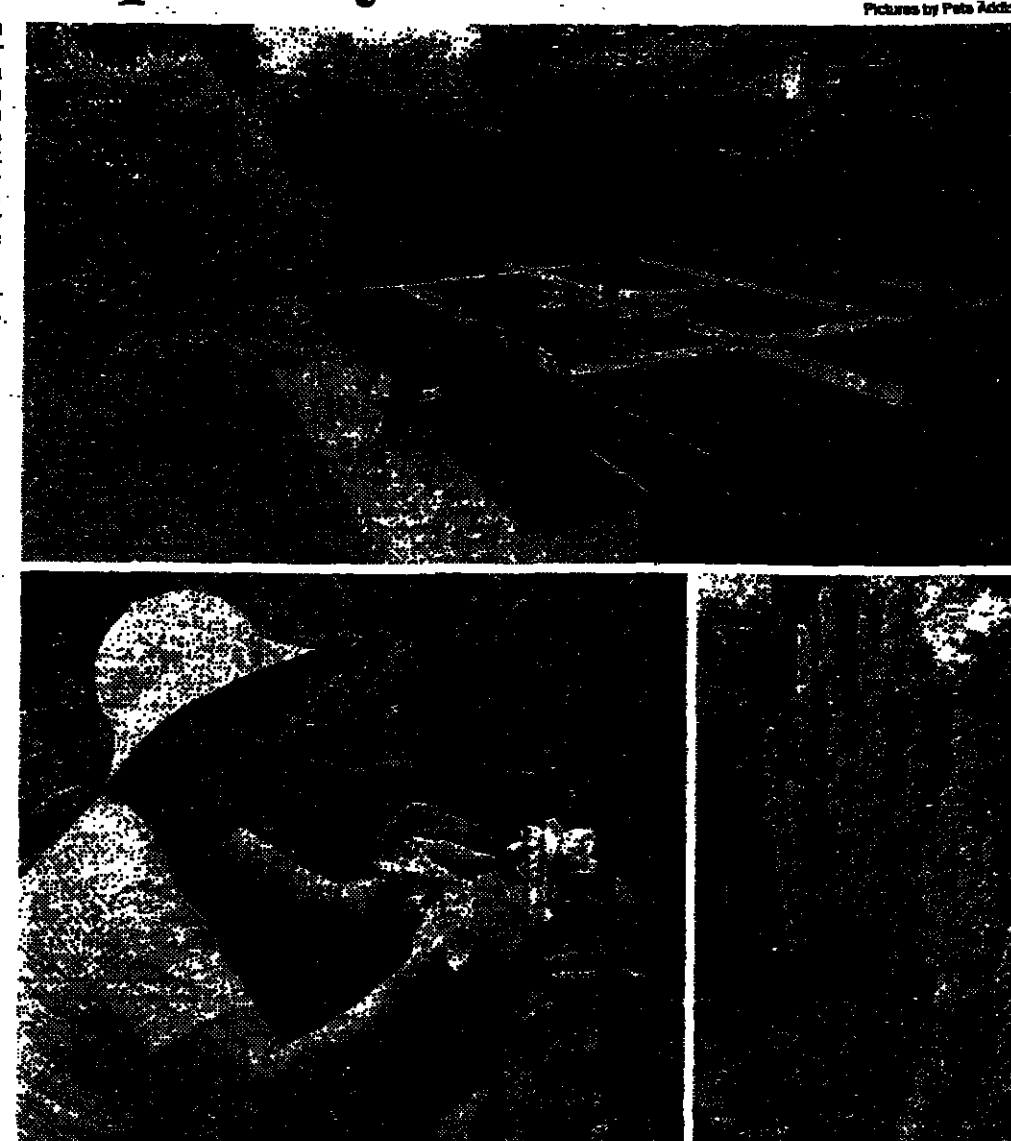
Those responsible for the Chelsea Physic Garden offer two definitions of the word "physic". One is "belonging to nature" (the archaic use); the other is that "the term 'physic garden' was an English rendering of *hortus medicus*, i.e. a teaching garden where plants of real, reputed or possible medicinal value were grown".

The garden is well worth a close look, since there are more than 5,000 species; for a small garden this is a wonderful achievement. Among the prime attractions are the natural order beds, many planted according to places of origin. The collections also include herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs.

One of the most attractive plants on view is the tulip tree, which is now in full flower; I do not think I have ever seen one look better.

Although not always fully appreciated, the bay tree, *Laurus nobilis*, is a fine evergreen. Its leaves are regularly used in cooking, which is another good reason for growing it. *Sorbus aria lutescens*, a form of the White Beam, is another good-looking tree, of medium size, with light green, eye-catching foliage. It will fit into many medium-sized gardens.

Unusual trees abound but two which stood out were



Enticing: Chelsea Physic Garden (top); Lilium regale (left); Verbascum bombyciferum

*Diospyros lotus*, which is sometimes confused with *D. kaki*. The fruit of *D. kaki* is the persimmon; recently, improved forms were introduced into this country as Sharon fruit. *D. lotus* is a fine tree, but unless it is well protected it may be affected by cold, wet winters. *Aesculus octandra* is of the chestnut family; here it is correctly labelled, but it is often seen as *A. flava*, Sweet or Yellow Buckeye.

The yellow flowers are attractive and there is no problem with conkers later. There is also the finest and possibly the oldest *Koeleruteria paniculata* I have seen - a magnificent sight

in flower, with yellow panicles of flower standing out from each lateral.

Shrubs are the backbone of any garden and here I found a spectacular *Fremontodendron californicum*: the large yellow flowers covered the bush, which is 10ft high and will be as much across. *Dicentra albus*, the burning bush, is another beautiful plant. It fits into a border, either with other shrubs or with herbaceous plants. *Kentranthus angustifolius* is unusual and adds something a little different to planting schemes.

Herbaceous plants can be found in profusion. *Sisyrinchium striatum* is one of my favourites; the spikes of yellow which stand proud of the foliage are good in almost any garden.

*Asphodelus microcarpus* produces spikes of creamy white flowers from a spiky-leaved plant. Finally, *Libertia formosa* will fit nicely into a garden, forming a clump with masses of white flowers over the foliage.

Ashley Stephenson

The Chelsea Physic Garden, Royal Hospital Road, London SW6 (352 5646) is open on Wed and Sun 2-5pm until Oct 21, and on bank holidays. Adults £1, students children 50p.

## Canals and conservation

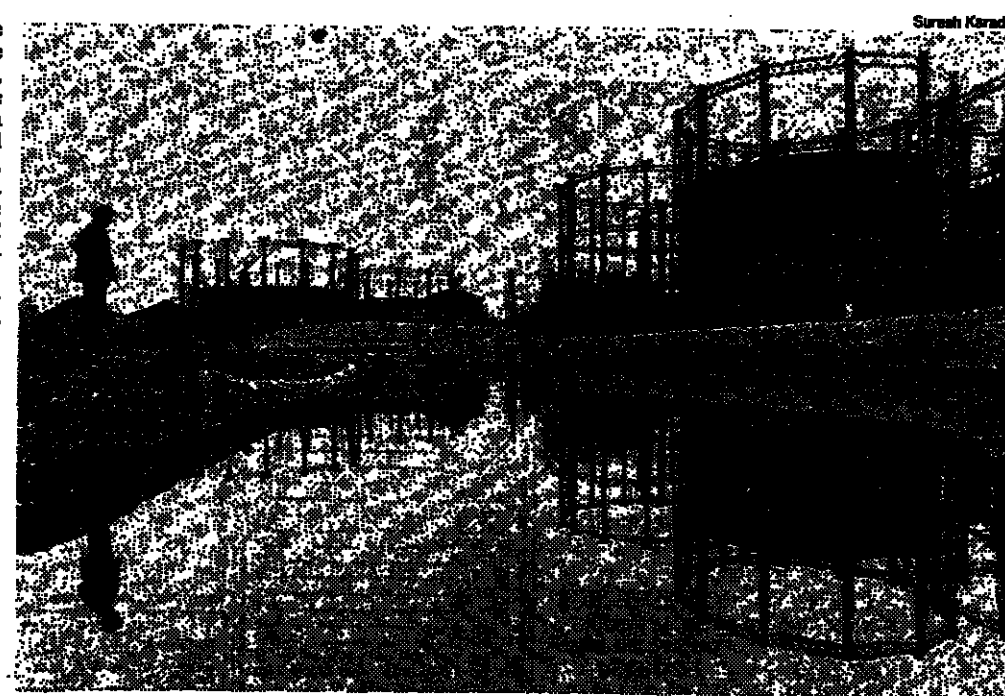
## A bit on the wild side down in the watery wastelands

It seems a pity that nature conservation should so often be left to underpaid young people, who sometimes have a naive enthusiasm that sense. Ken Livingstone, the beleaguered Greater London Council leader, tried to do something about it a year or two ago with the appointment of Dr David Goode, a reassuringly middle-aged refugee from the Nature Conservancy Council, as the council's first-ever official ecologist.

Dr Goode was given a nice salary, a budget of £700,000 or so and more than 200 square miles of open land and water to play with. It was, inevitably, a slow process to educate the feckless urban millions into an appreciation of the wildlife in their midst; and the rather more urgent business of political survival has tended to distract attention from such a marginal and tentative activity. But here as elsewhere, the GLC has managed at least to create an atmosphere in which some weird and wonderful growths have flourished.

By historical coincidence, the GLC discovered the wonders of nature at about the same time that the British Waterways Board was rediscovering the recreational potential of its canal network, in particular the Regent's Canal.

As early as 1980, the two were collaborating on a scheme to tidy up and landscape the tow paths and, with help from



Terry Brosnan, manager of the park at Camley Street, north London

individual boroughs and the Central Electricity Generating Board, which was allowed to run cables under the paths in central London provided it improved them as well, by last year the canal was open to walkers, cyclists, anglers and just plain idlers along 40 miles of its length, from Uxbridge in the west to Limehouse in the east.

Meanwhile, the Council of

Europe had launched a campaign for the conservation of habitats that occur at "The Water's Edge", offering all concerned a useful bureaucratic concept on which to focus their activities. The results - it could almost be an epitaph for the GLC itself - have been spotty but fun.

Take the Camley Street Natural Park, for example, currently shaping up just to the

north of St Pancras station in a scrubby patch of industrial wasteland along the canal. A large pond fed by the canal gives way to marshland on one side and marginal wet woodland of willow and alder on the other. Birch woodland and herby meadow are to complete the landscape with unobtrusive observation paths, timber walkways and a small field-study building.

The London Wildlife Trust, which is to manage the park under licence from the GLC, is confident that profusions of wildflowers, frogs, butterflies, dragonflies, songbirds and water fowl are only a matter of time. A pair of mallard ducks has already nested, and grey wagtails have been seen to take an interest.

In the future, the trust hopes, the principles behind the creation of the Camley Street park will work their magic on all the "old wharves, turning points and odd corners" along the length of the canal that could easily become mini-reserves. In a kind of do-it-yourself handbook prepared for the London Borough of Camden on the potential for wildlife habitats along the canal, the trust permits itself a brief gloat over "the satisfying twist of fate that the Victorian entrepreneurs of the Regent's Canal Company, whose purpose in constructing the waterway was profit, have left for us a stretch of water rich in wildlife and human association way beyond monetary value".

For hardcore urban conservationists, the GLC publishes a series of ecology handbooks, the first two of which cover respectively the variety and extent of the various habitats in Greater London, and basic principles of habitat creation for woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and wastelands. Both are

excellent introductions to the subject.

In all their rhapsodies about the canal, its saviours seem curiously blind to one important aspect of it: the admittedly bleak beauty of even its most derelict stretches.

Particularly in the canal's central and eastern stretches, the shadow of the Industrial Revolution broods in all its squalid filthiness over the still waters. Filthy, littered and depressing they may be, but these crumbling relics of the Victorian age have a powerful presence. I would hate to see them all replaced by butterfly gardens and reed beds.

Tony Samstag

A free booklet on canal walks is available from the London Tourist Board (various offices) or the British Waterways Board, Marlborough House, Marlborough Terrace, London NW1 (01-262 6711). The London Wildlife Trust, is at 1 Thorpe Close, London W10 (01-888 5388). A guide to habitat creation (£1.50) and Ecology and nature conservation in London (£1) plus 25p each p&p from the GLC Public Relations Branch, County Hall, London SE1 7PB. The GLC also produces a small contacts sheet under the second title. Cycling or fishing along the canal requires permits from the BWS. The board advises against travelling alone along the more isolated sections of the tow path. A "Waterbus" runs hourly between Little Venice, London Zoo, and Camden Lock until September 30. Adult fares from £1.25.

## DRINK

## Converted to the joys of Muscadet

Every wine writer has a vinous bete noire. One colleague for example loathes white wine so much that he usually refuses to even taste the stuff. Another member of our fraternity is less than enthusiastic about California wines, while another dislikes the bilious smell you often find in red wines that have been aged in old wooden barrels.

For years my pet hate was the thin, acidic tones of Muscadet. Until, that is, Lorne House Vintners, who specialise in exclusive Loire wines, eventually converted me to the joys of Muscadet drinking with their classy Chateau-Carré wines.

(Write to Lorne House at Unit 5, Hewitts Industrial Estate, Elmbridge Road, Cranleigh, Surrey for their new list.) However no one has yet been able to persuade me that any Gros Plant wine - an even duller and more acidic relative of Muscadet made from the Cognac region's boring Ugni Blanc grape is worth drinking.

Bag-in-box wines are also, alas, likely to continue as one of my dislikes, but my taste buds



have at last been won round to red.

This summer's find is a very pleasant Tavel Rosé from the Rhône, made by one of the more go-ahead French cooperatives - the Caves des Vignerons de Tavel, which was founded, amazingly enough, in 1937. This ripe, full, flowery-fruity wine is vaguely reminiscent of strawberries, and unlike other pink wines has enough tannin and backbone to cope with even the strongest July fare from *vietto tonnato* to salmon. (La Vigneronne 105

Old Brompton Road, London SW7, £3.65.)

As I have mentioned before, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Easter present to the wine trade of an 18p reduction in table wine, duty as especially welcome as it gave the all-important under £2 bottle a new lease of life. Even so it must be quite some time since I recommended any wine for as little as £1.65 a bottle. But Oddbins have managed to track down a very worthwhile Sicilian wine, Torre Marino, for this extraordinary low price.

Given this summer's unpredictable weather pattern, practical wine drinkers should stock up with red as well as white wines for July. Beaujolais is doubly useful at this time of year as you can serve it well-chilled on hot days and slightly warmer on cool evenings. I wrote about Vins Dessalé's impressive '83 Morgan earlier this year and was pleased to taste their '83 Beaujolais-Villages. Cuvée Solida recently (Haynes, Hanson & Clark, 36 Kensington Church Street,

London W8 and 17 Lettice Street, London SW6, £3.39.)

Oddbins also have a pair of inexpensive Portuguese reds that should cheer up any cool July day. At £1.99 the 76 Quinta do Convento from A. P. de Fonseca is another bargain. I

Finally, July is the ideal month not only for reviving any brused or tired summer fruits with a splash of sweet or sparkling white wine, but also for making that delicious German speciality - *runtopf*. Take a bottle of any modestly priced dark rum and pour it into an earthenware pot with a lid. As the summer goes by add any bruised red or black fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, cherries and blackcurrants or red currants with the odd tablespoon of sugar. Provided you keep the pot in a cool, dark place and keep an inch of rum above the fruit, by the time winter arrives you should have a wickedly alcoholic dessert.

Jane MacQuitty

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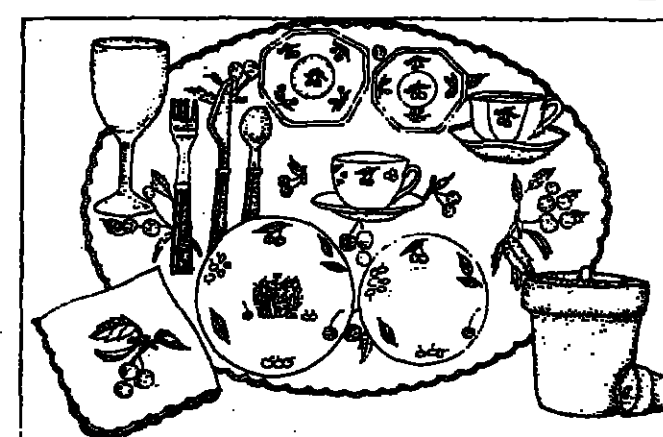
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## SUMMER BOOKS

## A taste of tomes to take away

This is the time of year when chaps and chappesses long to go on summer holiday. And one of the ways to survive the ghastliness is to take a good book or two. Quite why the Literary Editor is expected to tell you what to take beats me. You are likely to have tastes quite different from mine. In any case, this year I am taking mainly heavy tomes of history about the times: the bicentenary of the Thunderer is upon us.

If I had time enough to read for pleasure not duty, I should take paperbacks on the grounds that they weigh less and can be read in the open air without being spoilt by squashed midges, sand, or tarantula droppings. Below we list the fiction and

non-fiction of the month that caught the eyes of the reviewers.

There are the latest crimes and the latest historicals for those of you who go in for such things. For my part, in this Utopian orgy of reading, I am going to have something thumping solid and important.

I shall have Anna Thwaite's literary biography of Edmund Gosse - strange how a man who sounded such a pill turns out to have been so endearing. I am certainly going to take Hilary Tennyson's *The Hazyard Mind*; I have had no space to review it yet, but I will. Gertrude Himmelfarb's *The Idea of Poverty*, a study of England in the early industrial age, has

the virtues of solidity and importance, and would be an antidote to the exhausting business of having a good time.

Those who have a taste for urbane and literary chatter should take *The Lyttelton Hart-Davis Letters*, volume five.

I must have some fiction, not merely for pleasure, but to prove again that holidays are stranger than fiction. Let me have, and have time to read, all the first novels published so far this year. This will help with judging the Whitbread Award. Also *Small World* by David Lodge, *La Regatta* by Alen, *Edelstein* and *Below*, *Timbwood's* cricketing Brigadier and Kay Dick, and...

Philip Howard

## Fiction fired by the voice of experience

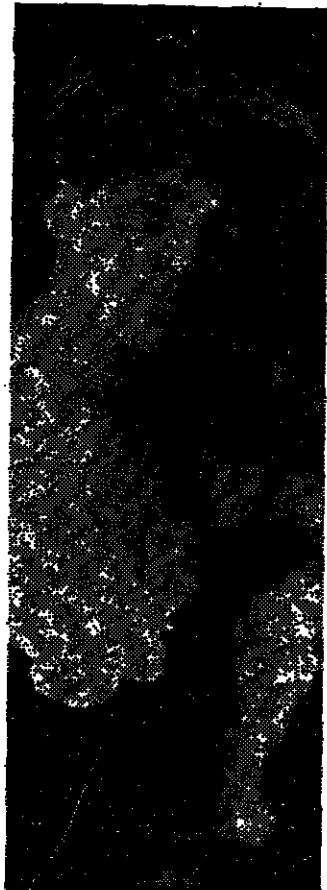
*The Custom of the Country* (Penguin, £3.95); *The Fruit of the Tree* (Virago, £3.95); *Ethan Frome* (Virago, £3.95). All by Edith Wharton

It was not until Edith Wharton fell in love - in her middle forties - that her work acquired a passion and depth of perception which produced the masterpieces we associate with her name: *Ethan Frome* (1911), *The Reef* (1912), and *The Age of Innocence* (1920), which won a Pulitzer Prize, and one might well include among this mature flowering *The Custom of the Country* (1913).

Apart from *Ethan Frome* (a tragic story of sexual frustration), these are the "society" novels, brilliantly illuminating American snoberies, the clashes between the class values of the "old families" and the entrepreneurial vulgarity of the go-getting new rich, both sharply counterpointed through the comparative qualities of European cosmopolitanism.

Edith Wharton's friend Henry James, when her marriage reached breaking-point, advised her to write about her own "backyard". This she did with consummate skill, unfolding what was to her a familiar background with total comprehension and irony. Born in 1862 into one of the most distinguished of New York families, she married a Boston socialite, and soon discovered that they were totally incompatible, not merely intellectually but sexually. For more than 20 years it was a marriage of keeping up appearances.

Edith Wharton dealt with this by rushing to Europe (where she eventually settled) and becoming in effect one of those Janesian American cosmopolitans. She was rich, patrician,



stylish, masterful and cultured. Thoroughly dedicated to her work, she produced more than 40 volumes of novels, stories, essays, travel pieces and memoirs. She died in 1937.

The renewal of interest in her work is in part due to recent

paperback reprints (*The Age of Innocence* from Penguin, *The Reef* from Virago, *Ethan Frome* from Oxford University Press) has given us a welcome addition to the backlog of literature. The best of Edith Wharton's fiction holds greater virtues than mere portraits of social history and all the subtleties of conventions and manners. For they also explore personal relationships, love and sexual passion with a steady scrutiny that can only be acquired through experience.

At 46 she had her revelation, her "ecstasy", when she fell in love with William Morton Fullerton, an American journalist working in Paris, more French than French. Again Henry James gave his advice: "live it all through, every inch of it." And she did so, for years, throwing herself into her love for Fullerton. Apart from James she had another mentor in Walter Berry, and only recently was it discovered that the passionate sexual passages in her diary were references to Fullerton not Berry.

Where this personal commitment had its creative joy is to be found in the authority which fires Edith Wharton's fiction. Here, one knows instantly, is someone who has been through the mill - majestically in her case - and has thereby understood the complexities and contradictions of relationships. *The Age of Innocence* and *The Reef* are superb examples of her maturity: I rate *The Reef* higher, if forced to make a judgement.

*The Custom of the Country* is also an extraordinary achievement, for the heroine is so grossly unsympathetic. It is a powerful portrait of an avaricious, wholly self-centred, spoiled woman who has no redeeming feature, and whose progress

towards fulfilment of her wishes is never halted.

The only daughter of a provincial broker, Undine, with beauty and wilfulness, persuades her doting parents to settle in New York that she might marry the best. The fact that she has been married before is kept a secret until it suits Undine to reveal it - when the first husband acquires enormous wealth and she marries him again. During the interval she marries twice: the heir of one of the "old families" and a French Viscount. The Frenchman copes with exquisite civility; the American goes to pieces. Undine triumphs, getting everything she wants. The portrait is ruthless, wonderfully satirical and very funny.

There is a relish about this novel. Mrs Wharton has, one feels, decided to tell the whole truth about American society as she knew it and about the European society which seduced her. Undine is an American monster and therein lies Edith Wharton's morality tale.

The four stories contained in *Madame de Tenebris* are more acceptable, covering as they do a certain Wharton range, but here again one feels that the publisher is scraping the barrel. My advice is to read the masterful *The Custom of the Country*, *The Age of Innocence* and *The Reef*. Edith Wharton is not a Henry James, whose every line is a work of art, but a splendid professional who achieved great heights.

Kay Dick

## Dark woods, unicorns and travellers' tales

## NON-FICTION

*The Divine Comedy*, Volume I, *The Inferno* translated with an introduction, notes, and commentary by Mark Musa (Penguin Classics, £2.50)

One day we read, to pass the time away, of Lancelot, how he had fallen in love;

we were alone, innocent of suspicion...

Mark Musa, entitled Distinguished Professor of French and Italian at the Center for Italian Studies at Indiana University, is one of our contemporary constellation of translators of the great poem about the love that moves the sun and other stars.

He chooses simple blank verse as his path through the dark wood of Dante translation. If you want something grander,

you go for Mandelbaum. If you want something more poetic, you go for Sisson. If you want the original *terza rima*, you go for Geoffrey Bickersteth. For old times' sake, I like Dorothy Sayers. Part of the pleasure is comparing and contrasting. Musa is good, but would be even better with the Italian text on facing pages.

Left Hand, Right Hand by Osbert Sitwell (Penguin Lives & Letters, £4.95)

Sitwells are vanished unicorns, who spent their lives in literature, the arts, and the upper classes. Sir Osbert's autobiography, published in four volumes just after the last war, is in the running for title of the most original and funniest autobiography of our shabby age. It combines high intelligence, wit, aristocratic insouciance and indiscretion, namedropping and a gallery of portraits fit for a fruity state home.

Unbeaten Tracks in Japan by Isabella Bird (Virago, £4.50)

Bird was the boldest, most perceptive, and most romantic of the great generation of Victorian travellers. She was also a woman, which helped her to write against the grain of received Victorian wisdom. Daughter of a clergyman, she did not begin to travel or write until half her life was over. She visited Japan in 1878, during the period when it was being transformed from a feudal to an industrialized modern society and found it exceeded her wildest expectations.

*The Middle Kingdom*, Inside China Today by Erwin Wickert (Pan, £2.95)

Portrait of the vast, magical enigma by the German diplomat and writer, who started as an attaché there, and ended 40 years later as ambassador of the Federal German Republic in China. From the first news of Mao's death to a visit to a Park of Culture, from friendships with the political leaders to descriptions of towns and countryside worthy of Isabella Bird, it unlocks the enigma as far as it is unlockable.

P. H.

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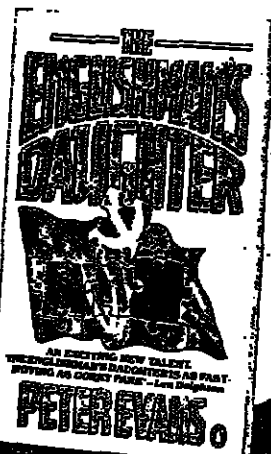
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Herbert Gandy, 1983

## Supersleuths sniff out the frauds and fakes

## CRIME

*Carson's Conspiracy* by Michael Innes (Gollancz, £5.95)

Fraudulent financiers out to know better than to plan their own disappearances within gossamer distance of former Scotland Yard Commissioner.

Sir John Appleby, retired to country dotage, can still smell a wrong 'un if enough people tell him about it. Almost everyone in the village is slightly dotty, and when staged kidnapping becomes a real murder only Appleby can interpret. Less jolly that most, but Innes need not yet consider following his character into retirement.

*The Rembrandt Panel* by Oliver Banks (Gollancz, £8.95)

Readers of the *Artes* - an increasingly popular genre of thrillers set in the art world - have yet to submit to a lot of lecturing among the action. Want to know how to tell a genuine Rembrandt or Greek vase from a fake? Or how to date the age of a frame? It's all here, with three murders, an appealing art-historical investigator, Dr Amos Hatcher, and a museum director who has spent most of the museum's funds on a phoney. Persuasive debut.

*The Burglar Who Painted Like Mondrian* by Lawrence Block (Gollancz, £7.95)

Antiquarian bookseller and burglar-by-night Bernie Rhodden's simple wish to steal a Mondrian is frustrated by misleading title designs, a clever and jolly romp by a prolific and almost always reliable thriller-writer of the literate-jolly school.

Not Dead, Only Resting by Simon Brett (Gollancz £7.95)

Amiable actor-sleuth Charles Paris, again between jobs and reduced to charring, has time to solve the murder of a gay restaurateur. Paris moves through theatrical coteries with charm and effect, and Brett's command of the greasepaint world remains unerring.

*Three Cheers for the Good Guys* by Frank Dickens (Macmillan, £8.95)

The successful cycling-mad cartoonist who created *Bristow* turns to crime-writing with a witty tale of a successful cycling mad cartoonist who keeps getting kidnapped. It's all in an artistic cause, for the crooks want him to fire some pots decorated by Da Vinci, Sardinia and sex intervene, and the pace is as fast as the *Tour de France*.

*Clandestine* by James Ellroy (Allison & Busby, £8.95)

Over-ambitious cop frames the wrong man for a sadistic murder and, even though it's Los Angeles, gets drummed out of the force. His obsessive search for the real killer develops into an atmospheric and disturbing psycho-thriller with hardly a murky stone unturned.

*Death of an Honourable Member* by Ray Harrison (Quartet, £7.50)

Unpopular MP falls down stairs. Coppers in the Victorian City of London, Sergeant Bragg and the cricketer Joff Constable Morton, probe discreetly. Satisfying motives for murder abound, and the insights into City matters circa 1890 are convincing.

Marcel Berlins



'Glory to the Heroes of the Patriotic War, Glory to Stalin's Falcons' reads the slogan on a 1941 Soviet poster, depicting a be-goggled machine-gunner amid a swarm of fighters. An illustration from the latest of the 'Epic of Flight' series. The book, *The Soviet Air Force at War*, by Russell Miller, is a detailed and well-illustrated account of the Soviet Air Force, from its Tzarist beginnings through to the powerful force of today (Time-Life books, £10.95)

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'An expert storyteller' Anthony Burgess, *Yorkshire Post* £8.95, 352pp.

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FAMILY LIFE

BRIDGE

Spiritual surgery for scars of youth

FICTION

**Second Sight and Lighthouse** by Sally Emerson (Methuen, £2.95). In *Second Sight* Jennifer Hamilton is grappling with her O-levels and an increasing awareness of her mother's lovers. It is a traditional picture of adolescence and of the pressures of personality in a small family unit, but the blend of detachment and passion with which it is described makes it seem both vital and remote. When life becomes too confusing Jennifer withdraws into her inner world where she feels herself to be in some sort of psychic communion with the poet Shelley and this, surprisingly, helps her to face reality.

In *Lighthouse* we see her as an adult, still deeply marked by her upbringing. She is a history teacher in a girls' school, deserted by her husband, feeling she is no one; just a beautiful consciousness floundering in a world she no longer has under any sort of control. She seeks out a fat and sinister spiritualist who seems to offer comfort. Sally Emerson writes simply but selectively of character and event with such precision that the reader is drawn deep into the ramifications of her heroine's panic.

**The Play Room and The Doves of Venus** by Olivia Manning (Virago, £2.95 and £3.50). This is another spiritual journey from adolescence to love and desertion and on to firmer happiness. In *The Play Room* Laura is a schoolgirl living on the wrong side of a seaside town (probably Portsmouth) and longing to be best friends with Vicky, the school sophisticated who combines effortless sexuality with a languid disregard for suburban convention and rides a powerful motor bike and goes to factory dances. Laura, escaping from her own stifling home, is fascinated by her, and, watching her headlong dash to disaster, emerges suddenly from the playroom of life into its more squalid passages.

The heroine of *The Doves of Venus* is called Ellie, but is really Laura moved on to the next stage. It is a glimpse of a young girl's initiation into London - the beatnik, the King's Road, the expanding social world, and above all the married man. It is straightforward but not exciting. So many of the scenes and emotions are over familiar that, though the observation is good enough, this part of the saga seems rather dated. Post-adolescence has not the inbuilt sharpness of teenage experience and needs more ponderous backup, which in this sort of novel can be a trap.

**The Great Fire of London and The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde** by Peter Ackroyd (Abacus, £2.50). Two feats of great daring. The first is a story about a man who decides to make a film of *Little*



Monkey business: A grim-looking gorilla and youngsters at the London Zoo's exhibition, designed to encourage conservation

Facing up to dangerous animals

I have news for my son and his classmates: break dancing - the jerky, athletic style of dance which is the latest craze among Britain's youth - is not the prerogative of young *Homo sapiens*. Gorillas - at least those in London Zoo - do it all the time. So do chimps and, what's more, the female of the species is better at it. Sally and Jane - female gorilla and chimp respectively - can do hand and head spins that would make my son and his friends green with envy.

I discovered this mind-expanding fact on a recent visit to the newly opened Apes and Monkeys exhibition at the zoo. I doubt that my observation would be of any interest to Dr Brian Bertram, Keeper of Mammals, or to anyone else concerned with the animals' welfare. But the fact that I was spending time at the exhibition would be of interest, for its organizers believe that only by watching the animals, absorbing the information given next to each enclosure and establishing some sort of affinity with the animals can we become aware of the need to preserve their existence.

Many of the apes and monkeys at the zoo do indeed belong to endangered species, but those who have mounted this exhibition hope to do, among other things, is to raise our awareness of the ways in which humans are destroying not only their own, but their fellow animals' environment.

If this sounds serious, it is meant to be. As Dr Bertram explained, with tropical rain forests being destroyed on an almost inconceivable scale (an area larger than the zoo itself is

lost every minute), anything that can make us aware of our destructive behaviour must be beneficial.

In an attempt to bring the point home, in the middle of the Sobell Pavilions, where the apes and monkeys are housed, is a sunken shrubbery which contains nothing but sawn-off tree-stumps, put there to illustrate the devastation in other parts of the world. In addition, and perhaps more effectively, visitors may stand in a simulated cage-front, alongside cut-out panels of a gorilla, chimpanzee and orang-utan, to have their photographs taken. Above the "human" cage is a sign reading: "London Zoo present the most dangerous animal in the world". It is a point well-made.

The message will be drummed home tomorrow

when members of WATCH, the junior wing of the County Nature Conservation Trust, will be visiting. Anyone aged under 18, who joins the organization there will gain free admission to the zoo. John Craven, from the BBC and naturalist David Bellamy, the president of WATCH, will be putting in appearances during the day.

The London Zoo can be justifiably proud of its record in breeding apes and monkeys. Of the 52 animals in the pavilions, 49 were born there; and of the 12 different species to be seen, nine are breeding successfully.

Graphic displays describe each species and particular animals with their individual "case histories". But I suspect that the sight of the primates themselves with their young and their mates will do more to

prick our consciences about the eventual fate of the apes and monkeys in their natural habitat. George Callard, their head keeper, who has worked with them for 49 years, certainly believes so.

George is a remarkable man. He took my friend and behind the scenes to get a closer look at chimps, gorillas and orang-utans - his favourites. One particular female gazed at him with - and I am fully aware of the repellence of anthropomorphism - what can only be described as love. We discovered a possible reason. That George and his wife had hand-reared her for the first 10 months of her life. She is called Suka, which means "delightful", and was rejected at birth.

As we left, the male chimp was keeping his five mates on their toes, chasing them all over the enclosure. "A proper male chauvinist", said George, "but he wouldn't ever do them any real harm, though he did once bite one of the female's toes off when she went too far".

It was a most vivid illustrating the final dividing line between "us and them", a dividing line that has to be made when we ask, as many of us do, why the big apes and the smaller monkeys have to be enclosed. Were they not to be, we could none of us stand and stare and hopefully take note of the fact that they represent only a minute proportion of their fellow species whose future is already uncertain.

**Judy Froshang**  
"Apes and Monkeys" is at the London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 (722 3333). The zoo is open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 9am-7pm. Adults £2.95, children £1.45. Tomorrow 10am-6pm. Free.

Outings

**GRAND EDWARDIAN MILITARY BAND PICNIC:** An evening of music and dancing with two military bands and a pipe band and dancing in a marquee. Visitors are encouraged to wear Edwardian costume. Dyrham Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire (02752 2501). Today at 7pm. Tickets at the gate, £5.

**LEEDS CASTLE CONCERT:** Annual event attended by thousands of light classical music lovers in the grounds of possibly the prettiest castle in the south. Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0822 65400). Tonight from 8pm. Castle grounds open at 4pm. Adults £5, children £3.50, chairs (limited numbers) £2 extra.

**INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW '84:** A six-hour flying programme includes the Red Arrows, mock air battles, helicopter display teams

and parachute descents. Middle Walton, Stockbridge, Hampshire (0234 82121). Today and tomorrow, 9am-5pm. Flying starts from 10am. Adults £4, children 8-16 £1, under-8s free.

**TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC:** Bears and their owners can enjoy competitions, quizzes, train rides and - for those aged under 10 - rides on the antique roundabout. Prices for the smallest/best dressed/best knitted/best handmade/oldest bear. The London Toy and Model Museum, 21 Craven Hill, London, W2 (282 9350). Tomorrow 2pm-5pm. Children carrying a bear free, adults £1.50 (£1 if carrying a bear).

**PAGEANT OF THE HORSE:** Spectacular annual event for anyone who loves horses, showjumping in particular. Doncaster Racecourse, Doncaster, South Yorkshire (0302 20066). Tomorrow 10am-6pm. Free.

GALLERIES

THE WEEK

An artist wrapped up in his own style

He has wrapped up the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, surrounded ten islands in Miami with pink fabric and (almost) wrapped a sizable stretch of coastline in Australia. Next year he plans two sensational wrapping exercises in Paris and Barcelona. Christo, it seems, is gradually wrapping up the world.

So far Britain has escaped a parceling. But Christo will be in London next week for the launch of an exhibition at the Juda Rowan Gallery which will feature objects, collages and drawings from over the past 26 years.

Christo, who is 49, was born in Bulgaria and fled to the West during the Hungarian uprising in 1956. He arrived in Paris in 1958, joining Yves Klein and the New Realists; gradually he developed his own particular art form which derives its significance from both the object chosen and the way it is presented. It also comments on twentieth-century packaging and the new consumerism. His first work to involve the environment was in 1962 when he created an Iron Curtain out of all canvas in the rue Visconti, Paris, an act which was also political.

Seeing something which is normally familiar but has become visually unobtainable gives it a different focus, a sense of suspense. For this reason the wrapping is often an important part of the wrapping, as long as it is on cue. On one occasion, over-zealous customs men meddled with a model on its way to the Teheran Museum. "Christo is furious when people unwrap his works," says Mrs Juda of the gallery. "He used to

rewrap, but now refuses. We get our restorer in."

Christo arrives in London after dropping in at Barcelona to negotiate the wrapping of the giant statue of Christopher Columbus in the harbor there. His other current project is to enshroud the Pont Neuf in Paris. "He has already seen Mayor Chirac's unimpressed face," says Mrs Juda. "Chirac said to him years ago 'any other bridge but the Pont Neuf', but Christo insists it has to be the Pont Neuf for historical reasons."

No one doubts Christo's powers of persuasion. One of his projects, the Running Fence in California in 1976, involved 17 public hearings, a 450-page environmental impact report and a running battle against a campaign set up by local artists. When it was eventually seen in its full 25-mile splendour, one of the local ranchers, Tom Gordon, was so enthralled that he waded stakes and joined Christo's entourage as a self-confessed groupie. After his floating islands project the people of Florida wanted him to come back and do it again because he had cleaned up their shores so thoroughly while making preparations.

If he were to turn his gaze on Britain, which building or monument would Christo choose? The National Gallery perhaps or Nelson's Column? "It's not as if you can say to him 'Do you want to wrap this up?'" explains Mrs Juda. "We'll just have to wait and see."

**Sarah Jane Checkland**  
"Christo: Objects, Collages and Drawings 1959-1984" opens on Fri at the Juda Rowan Gallery, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (837 5517). Until Sept 1, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

Openings

Selected

**OLYMPIC GAMES:** An exhibition of work related to the Los Angeles Olympics by four young artists. Thumb Gallery, 20/21 D'Arbury Street, London W1 (434 2831). Opens Tues. Until Aug 10, Mon-Fri 11am-6pm (Thurs 2.30pm), Sat 11am-4pm.

**JOHN BRATBY:** The man with the glorious technicoloured paintbox exhibits paintings from recent tours to Venice, Istanbul and Malta as well as of subjects closer to home: Brighton Marina and two self-portraits. The Grange, Rottingdean, near Brighton, East Sussex (0273 603005). Opens today. Until Aug 26, Mon-Sat 10am-4.30pm (closed Wed and lunchtime Tues and Fri), Sun 2-4.55pm.

**ARTIST OF THE DAY**  
Angela Flowers Gallery, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (837 3088). Until Fri, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm. Second day of this two-week artistic marathon where an entirely new exhibition by a young artist is mounted each day. High points this week are Tues and Thurs when you can see work by Nicola Hicks and Neil Jeffries.

**ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ART**  
1066-1200  
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3144). Until tomorrow, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm. Last chance to see the finest of the traces left by our ancestors nearly 1,000 years ago. A sensational duck-like light accentuates the

qualities of relief carvings, manuscripts and church treasures.

**GEORGE ROMNEY**  
Abbott Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Kirkland, Kent (0222 22464). Until Sept 2, Mon-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, weekends 2-6pm. Another 250th-birthday tribute to the artist who once rivalled Reynolds.

**Photography**  
**AXEL POIGNANT**  
The Gallery, New South Wales House, 66 Strand, London WC2 (01-636 6861). Until Aug 3, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm. Axel Poignant was born in England in 1906 but moved to Australia at the age of 20 where he lived for 40 years. This retrospective covers the period from 1922 to 1980 and

contains many of his photographs of aborigines which became important special documents during the 1940s and 1950s. Poignant's work displays a remarkable inquisitive nature and throughout there is an obvious rapport between photographer and subject.

**MARK GERSON: WRITERS OBSERVED**  
National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-622 2039). Mon until Aug 18, Mon-Sat 10am-1pm. Gerson has concentrated on photographing British literary figures since he began taking pictures in 1947. Perhaps his best-known portrait is of Evelyn Waugh, full-length between stone couchant figure.

**Photography: Michael Young**

Desperate muddles befall the experts

Have modern systems and the introduction of innumerable artificial conventions made the experts' bidding more accurate? Certainly not, old-time players would say. The examples that follow will reinforce their contemptuous dismissal of so-called progress.

The astonishing feature of these extraordinary muddles is that all the participants have repeated their count of World Championships!

Temps. Love: all. Dealer West.

W N E S  
Double No No No No  
SNT No No No No

(1) A negative double.

East was a very strong player with a reputation for preferring the direct to the ornamental approach, so his contortions on this hand were out of character. But to be fair, the East hand is by no means easy to bid. Any direct club raise short of game is grossly inadequate, and five clubs would often leave West with an impossible guess. The objection to two hearts, which would probably be the majority choice, is the lack of any heart control.

As so often happens when you choose the untrodden path, the going becomes muddier with every successive bid. Whatever the defects of East's first two bids, his pass of 3NT was surely unparagonable. If he had continued with four clubs,

West, with his powerful controls, would certainly have bid the club slam.

For the next tragic-comedy the setting was the 1972 World team Olympiad in Miami. Great Britain v Italy. East-West Game. Dealer East.

W N E S  
Double No No No No  
SNT No No No No

Friday and Rodrigue bid the North-South cards to six clubs. Rodrigue shrewdly elected to play West for the club length, and made 12 tricks. Nine hundred and twenty to Great Britain.

This was the bidding in the other room, where the illustrious Garozzo and Forquet held the North-South cards.

(1) The multi-coloured two diamonds, a bid with several meanings, usually a weak two-bid in a major.  
(2) Prepared to play in two hearts, if that is East's suit.  
(3) Forcing, requesting partner to bid.  
(4) Showing a minimum take-out double.  
(5) Intended as a cue bid, to extract a minor suit from South.  
(6) Message imperfectly received. Four down, 200 to Great Britain, and 15 IMPs. Which shows it can happen to anyone.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Sparkling genius gets to grips with the space age

London seems to be rapidly becoming the capital city of world chess. The latest evidence for this came this week when the Soviet grandmaster Gary Kasparov played the first ever satellite match, it was a clock simultaneous display against five of the leading English youngsters and five of the best young American players, who were gathered in New York.

The display came hard on the heels of the second match between teams representing the Soviet Union and the Rest of the World, which was narrowly won by the Soviet side by 21-19, the same margin by which they won the first match in 1970.

The satellite contest was a hugely impressive event, and not just because of the use of space-age technology: both the grandmaster and his opponents had to play at the rate of 20 moves an hour, Kasparov was in scintillating form, and the English players, in particular, did themselves a great deal of credit. It was also another chess coup for the sponsors, the Dockland Development Corporation, which had earlier sponsored the match between the Soviet Union and the Rest of the World.

Kasparov eventually won by 8½ to 1½. But three of the English juniors gained draws - 12-year-old Michael Adams in 20 moves, Neil Carr (16) and Gary Lane (19). All five Americans lost.

Kasparov's winning margin may look a trifle daunting, but he was in dazzling form and, as was playing brisk and lively chess very much in the style of

the great Alexander Alekhine to whom he has often been likened.

Here, for instance, is a game with a beautiful Alekhine-like combination that he won against Stuart Conquest, the former under-16 world champion, who was by no means disgraced by his play in the event.

White: G. Kasparov. Black: S. Conquest. Q. G. D. Slav Defence.

1 P-Q4 P-Q4 2 P-Q4 P-Q4  
3 P-K3 N-K3 4 P-K3 P-K3  
After 4... P-KN3 5 Q-N3 is very strong.  
5 P-Q4 P-K3 6 P-K3 P-K3  
7 P-K3 P-K3 8 P-K3 P-K3  
9 P-K3 P-K3 10 P-K3 P-K3  
Simpler, and probably better for Black, is 10... Bx3 ch.  
11 N-K4 Q-N3 12 Q-N3 Q-N3  
Naturally, not 12 QxN because of 12... N-Q6 ch winning the Queen.  
13 K-N1 P-K3 14 N-K4 Q-N3  
15 P-Q4 P-K3 16 P-K4 P-K4  
B-N3 17 B-N2, threatening P-B4, is also good for White.  
18 N-Q2 P-K3 19 P-K3 P-K3  
20 P-K3 P-K3 21 P-K3 P-K3  
22 P-K3 P-K3 23 P-K3 P-K3  
24 P-K3 P-K3 25 P-K3 P-K3  
A beautiful move that immediately exploits the exposed position of the Black King. If now 24... N-N2 25 R-K4, threatening P-B4, is a R-K4 mate.  
25 B-R3 26 B-R3 ch K-N3  
27 N-K5 mate.

Kasparov took 1 hour 16 minutes over his moves and Conquest took 1 hour 57 mins.

Harry Golombek

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 387)

Prizes of the New Concise English dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, July 12, 1984. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, July 14, 1984.

- ACROSS
- Twisted single surface (6,5)
  - Ornamental window (7)
  - Postulate (5)
  - Which person (3)
  - Choose (4)
  - Earnest request (4)
  - Receipts (6)
  - Draught cattle (4)
  - Looped cross (4)
  - Shelter panel (6)
  - Prayer response (4)
  - Viking invader (4)
  - Corrupt (3)
  - Fireplace (5)
  - Dependant (7)
  - Manipulate unfairly (11)

- DOWN
- Spiral measure (5)
  - Stork-like wader (4)
  - European merganser (4)
  - Misprint (5)
  - Diabetes drug (7)
  - Impulse to steal (11)
  - Festiveness (11)
  - Hinder (6)
  - Relatives (3)
  - Gum arabic tree (6)
  - Sweetmeat stand (7)
  - Also (3)
  - Alley (6)
  - Fright (4)
  - Slender (4)
  - Proposal (4)

**SOLUTION TO No 386**  
ACROSS: 1 Thies 5 Saddle 8 Imp 9 Vacant 10 Opaline 11 STOL 12 Ignominy 14 Earwig 15 Embays 19 Vestivus 22 Gape 24 Votive 25 Avenue 26 Pus 27 Repeat 28 Yoruba  
DOWN: 2 Heart 3 Shallow 4 Sitting 5 Spoon 6 Deism 7 Latency 13 Ohm 15 Anemone 16 ITV 17 Estuary 18 Bugbear 20 Unile 21 Inept 23 Plumb  
Recommenced dictionary is the New Collins Concise.  
The winners of prize concise No 381 are Mrs E. Lewandowicz 13 Church Row, Ebury, Tarporey, Cheshire; and V W Williams, 17 Balfour Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent.

**SOLUTION TO No 381** (last Saturday's prize concise)  
ACROSS: 1 Fascinating 9 Obscure 10 Tide 11 Dine 12 Noel 16 Test 17 Exempt 18 Imp 20 Seat 21 Quarto 22 Sink 23 Hoyal 25 Dam 26 Uncle 29 Hexact 29 Westminster  
DOWN: 2 Aisle 3 Clue 4 Noed 5 Tote 6 Nutcase 7 Connoisseur 8 Versatility 12 Umpire 14 Lei 15 Beluga 19 Panache 20 Sob 24 Weave 25 Dent 26 Mini 27 Lens

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SUSPENSE FROM MACMILLAN

BELLADONNA

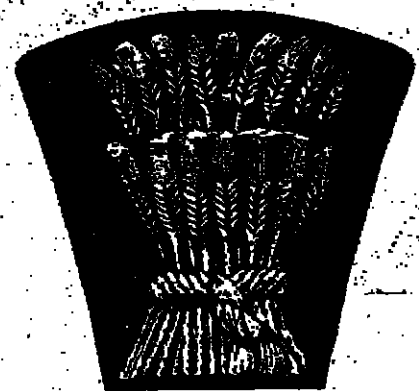
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ATOL 149







# Entertainments

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VICTORIA  
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MUSEUM

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Sunday 12pm-5pm

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A CAVALIER MORAL

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### ST MARTIN'S THEATRE

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## TELEVISION THE WEEK

### Frustration ends in a class war

As a tribute to Joseph Losey, the American expatriate director who died last month, BBC2 is tonight showing his 1963 film, *The Servant* (10.05pm-12.05am) with a specially recorded introduction by Dirk Bogarde, the film's star and a frequent collaborator in Losey's films.

*The Servant* was a key work in Losey's career, which began in Hollywood, was interrupted when he was put on the blacklist there, and resumed, at first, under pseudonyms, in Britain, where he worked for nearly a decade on subjects that were rarely of his own choosing.

The results were seldom less than interesting - one thinks of *The Criminal* and his Hammer horror film, *The Damned* - but they were the flawed products of a frustrated talent trying to inject flair into inferior material. With *The Servant* Losey was at last able to set up a project of his own and do it the way he wanted.

The story was based on a short novel by Robin Maugham, which Losey had long cherished as a film. Dirk Bogarde, looking to be taken seriously as an actor after years in the series of Doctor films, agreed to play the lead, and Harold Pinter was engaged as screenwriter, his first work for the cinema.

The theme of *The Servant*, the destruction of a weak personality by a stronger one, had cropped up in Losey's films before but this time there was a class dimension as well. As an outsider, Losey became intrigued by the British class system and returned to it in other pictures, notably *The Go-Between*.

In *The Servant* the protagonist is a young man, Tony (James Fox), who is rich, pampered and privileged, while his new manservant (Bogarde) has been used to a life of deference. As the film develops, however, the roles become reversed as the servant systematically humiliates and destroys his ineffectual master.

*The Servant* sets up a fascinating artistic tension between Losey's ornate direction - his dramatic lighting and camera angles, his heightened and often symbolic use of decor - and Pinter's spare, laconic style, which more is conveyed than is actually spoken. On paper it was an unlikely partnership; but it worked triumphantly.

The film was also a triumph for Bogarde, who was able to bury once and for all his image as a romantic lead and start to gain acceptance as one of this



Delusions of grandeur: Bogarde with Fox caught in a trap

country's finest screen actors. His portrayal of the manservant Barrett, with its precise nuances of speech and gesture, is a masterpiece of subtle observation.

James Fox provides an effective foil as the arrogant, pathetic young master, Wendy Craig, now best known for her work in television situation comedy, plays his fiancée, and Sarah Miles is the girl introduced by Barrett into the household to further the process of Tony's destruction.

Losey was able to get his way on *The Servant* not so much on the strength of the cast - Bogarde was the only box-office draw among them - but because he made the film on what was then an extraordinarily low budget for a main feature of £140,000, with most of those concerned taking much less than their normal earnings.

For Losey *The Servant* was his first film since his exile from the United States to win widespread, indeed virtually unanimous, critical acclaim.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended: *Pardon Us* (1931): Laurel and Hardy, in their first feature-length vehicle, as beer barons who are sent to jail and thwart a break-out. James Finlayson in support (Channel 4, today, 2.20-3.20pm).

*Passage to Marseille* (1943): Second World War adventure with the same cast (Bogart, Rains, Greenstreet) as *Casablanca*, but not quite the same power (BBC1, tomorrow, 2.20-4.05pm).

*Skin Deep* (1979): What happens when sleepy New Zealand provincial town starts a health club and sauna and imports an attractive masseuse to run it? Deryn Cooper stars, Geoff Staven directs (BBC2, tomorrow, 10.15pm-midnight).

*Carmen Jones* (1954): Dorothy Dandridge, Harry Belafonte and Pearl Bailey head the all-black cast in the Oscar Hammerstein update of Bizet's opera. Directed by Otto Preminger (Channel 4, Wed, 9.55-11.50pm).

*Rachel, Rachel* (1968): Paul Newman directing his wife, Joanne Woodward, as a lonely Connecticut schoolteacher who has reached 35 and becomes disillusioned with friends, family and career (BBC2, Thurs, 9-10.35pm).

\* First British television showing

### Programme choice

**LAST PIT IN THE RHONDDA:** Seventy years ago there were more than 60 pits in the famous Welsh valley, employing 41,000 men; now there is one, Merthyr, with just 750 men, and many of these could lose their jobs before long. The first of two documentaries about Merthyr, being shown tonight, examines life at the pit before the miners' strike; the second (tomorrow) looks at how the men and their families have been coping since the dispute began.

BBC 2, tonight, 8.15-9.05pm; and BBC 2, tomorrow, 9.25-10.15pm.

**OMNIBUS:** Includes a film on James McNeill Whistler, the American-born artist, who was born 150 years ago this month; and the television premiere of *A Londoner in New York*, a new work by the young composer Jim Parker. Presented by Douglas Skares, the author of the book, the Whistler film concentrates on his years in London and the river landscapes he called Nocturnes.

BBC 1, Tues, 9.25-10.10pm.



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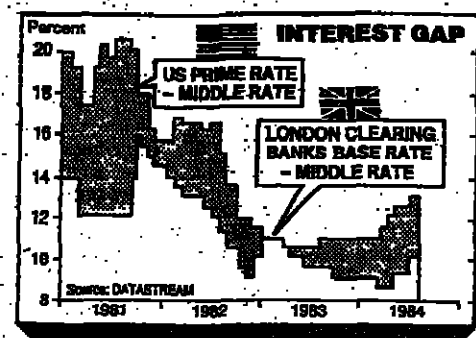
# FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## A base rate rise that should be welcomed

The road to Damascus has proved more like a motorway interchange for Treasury and Bank of England views on money and the exchange rate.

Last week, the Bank took the unusual step of saying publicly that it saw no reason for a rise in interest rates. In that, the Old Lady was following faithfully in the steps of the chancellor, who said all was well with the money supply and there was no need to protect an exchange rate made weak by others, notably American policies.



By yesterday, the Bank seemed by no means unhappy that base rates had risen slightly more than the Barclays market formula indicated. And Whitehall was stressing that it had no intention of being lax, should the broad monetary measures prove to be growing relatively fast.

Those of Machiavellian persuasion suspect the Bank wanted this outcome all along, since it must have known that its supposed brake on interest rates was a straight selling signal for any half-awake currency trader. Those who prefer the fiasco theory of history still see a precedent on that notorious March day in 1976, when the Bank made a small fine-tuning sale of sterling that set off the long slide to \$1.56 and the arrival of the IMF inspectors with their purger and corrective disciplines.

The underlying weakness of sterling now stems from that same widening gap between US and British interest rates, which eventually brought domestic interest rate rises both in autumn 1981 and the turn of 1982-83. To make matters worse, the end of the German metal strike pointed up our own miners' efforts and focused eyes on sterling.

Market eyes were bound to scrutinize next Tuesday's preliminary money supply figures unsympathetically. As suggested here a fortnight ago, heavy redemptions of gilt-edged stock in the June banking month seem likely to undermine a late selling burst by the Government Broker and some fairly technical slackening of bank lending. City estimates vary from a rise in £ M3 of anything between 0.75 to 1.75 per cent and with the wider money measure rising too fast for months, the excuse of front-end loading on government borrowing was unlikely to cut any ice.

The base rate rise has so far done little more than steady sterling and previous experience suggests slides can take a while to turn round.

On domestic money tests, next week's likely rise in mortgage rates should soften

the unhealthy 5.5 per cent rise in house prices this year shown on the Halifax index. Monetary tightening could also bring some reality to the upsurge in pay claims. It may seem daft to raise interest rates with unemployment still rising. But early indicators point clearly to a short-term cyclical slackening of recovery. The rate rise should be welcomed.

After all our pain and effort, it would be dafter for Britain to enter this downturn with money, inflation and the exchange rate all in a weak state.

## A Thorn in Rascal's side

So it is over to Lord Weinstock and GEC. Thorn EMI has formally thrown in the towel and walked away from any prospect of a fight over British Aerospace. Thorn's move prompts two questions. First, who is next on Thorn's list of possible acquisitions? Second, has GEC achieved its main, if unspoken, objective by spoiling Thorn's suit for BAE?

Thorn's difficulty in finding an alternative acquisition is that BAE stood head and shoulders above the other contenders when the approach was initially made. Since then Rascal has turned in some flat figures and for the first time in a long while looks vulnerable to a bid. This particular window of opportunity may not be open for too long - Rascal has not gone ex-growth to the extent that some sceptics believe.

The failure of GEC's bid to materialize during the week despite some confident predictions has encouraged the market's cynics. They misunderstand the seriousness of GEC's intent. More hinges on the price that BAE demands, both financial and in guarantees of independence, and governmental decisions - which will not be made any easier by Mr Michael Heseltine's insistence that defence business should be open to more competition, not less.

## Banking on a red herring

Merchant banks' stock-in-trade is ideas, and Mr Trevor Swete, of Hill, Samuel, is to be congratulated on his bold idea of importing the American "red herring" technique for floating Jaguar. The fact that the plan, conceived as long ago as January, should burst into flower at a particularly embarrassing time for those associated with the flotation of Enterprise Oil is an unlooked-for competitive bonus for his bank.

The question the merchant banking fraternity must be pondering this weekend is whether new ground really has been broken by Mr Swete, or whether, as he cheerfully recognises, his reward will prove to be a faithful of egg.

In the US, the technique involves publishing what is known as a "red herring" prospectus, so called because that document contains a suggested price range for the shares in question which is likely to be modified by public reaction to the prospectus and changing conditions in the market. Mr Swete's British version is less a red herring, more a selective exposure of the fishmonger's slab. Instead of publishing a tentative share price, that and other key information - Jaguar's indebtedness and the number of shares to be issued for instance - are simply blacked out.

The offer is the sort of draft form of a prospectus which normally circulates among City underwriters and advisers ahead of an issue. The difference is that this one is being published. In about three weeks, a "final" version will appear, with all the figures filled in. Dealings in Jaguar shares will begin about a week after that.

In this way, anyone who is interested

will be able to study the available financial and business information about Jaguar. Some of the black dots cover information which, by its very nature, cannot be finalized until the last moment. This includes the debt figure.

The other dots mask the answers to the very question Hill, Samuel wants to pose through public debate, such as the price which will clear the desired number of shares.

The draft prospectus cannot rank as a formal offer for sale, so would-be investors must ask for a copy rather than being sent one. All Jaguar dealers will be given reply-paid cards to distribute to interested customers. BL employees and shareholders will be sent the prospectus as of right.

While this appears to be a promising way to insulate the Government from further criticism over its privatization policy, it remains to be seen how acceptable the technique will be in the City. It poses problems for the Government Broker, whose job is to ensure an orderly flow of new issues so that they do not tread unduly on one another's toes. The three or four-week span of a red herring trailer makes his harder to achieve.

More profoundly, Hill, Samuel is challenging the unspoken assumption that new issues should be handed down to the public fully formed, shorn of doubts or loose ends. Mr Swete dares to admit that the City might be fallible and open to correction. That is a refreshing line but one which will not meet with instant rapture in all corners of the Square Mile.

# Jaguar bid safeguard will limit shareholdings to 15%

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

No individual or company will be allowed to hold more than 15 per cent of the shares in Jaguar Cars when the luxury saloon manufacturer is floated on the Stock Exchange this month.

The articles of association for Jaguar - the next big privatization offering on the Government's list - have been drawn up to prohibit specifically any shareholder exceeding the 15 per cent limit for at least six years. In addition, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will hold a single blocking "golden share", enabling him to veto changes in the articles of association and any attempt to break up the business.

These two restrictions - which are designed to guarantee Jaguar's independence for the

first few years of its life as a private sector company - will expire in 1990. They were disclosed yesterday as BL wrote to its remaining private sector shareholders giving more details about the impending Jaguar share sale.

Although the limit on individual shareholdings was planned before the Government's recent embarrassment with the Enterprise Oil flotation, its effect will be to prevent any repeat of RTZ's attempt to win control of Enterprise by making a large initial application for shares at the time of flotation as well as any post-flotation bids or share raids.

The Jaguar flotation can take place only with the approval of its minority private share-



John Egan: flotation likely this month

BL and its financial advisers, Hill Samuel, have taken the unusual step of issuing a draft prospectus ahead of the flotation.

Mr John Egan, aged 44, Jaguar's chief executive, has signed a three year contract at an annual salary of £56,477, together with a bonus linked to Jaguar's financial performance which could be as much as 50 per cent of his annual salary. He also has the option to buy up to £250,000 Jaguar shares at the original offer-for-sale price.

Mr John Edwards, the finance director, will be paid £38,722 with a similar bonus, as well as share options. Mr Graham Whitehead, president of Jaguar's operations in the United States and Canada, will receive a salary of £187,000, with a potential annual bonus of 25 per cent.

## Index falls 14 points

Shares fell yesterday as the clearing banks raised their base rates by 0.75 of a percentage point to 10 per cent. The FT index ended the day 14.2 down at 819.3. As the dollar continued to strengthen on the foreign exchanges, gold came under heavy selling pressure, falling \$23 to close at \$341.50 in London. This in turn put pressure on the South African Rand - and the Hong Kong dollar also suffered from the strength of the dollar.

● BUTTERFIELD-HARVEY, the troubled engineering group, has been forced to renegotiate the terms of a £2m rescue package with Technology Inc of the United States after making a pre-tax loss of £1.3m in the year to the end of last March. This was much higher than had been expected when the package was first agreed at the end of last year.

● FRESHBAKE FOODS is buying two frozen food companies for a total of £5.75m. Freshbake's shares, suspended before the deals to buy Banghams Foods and Mairson Food Brokers International, will be traded again on Monday.

Temps, page 24

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1042.3 down 20.4 (high: 1060.7; low: 1042.3)  
FT Index: 819.3 down 14.2  
FT All Shares: 77.79 down 0.23  
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 100.57 up 0.44  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (lastest) 1116.28 down 7.28  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,461.81 up 41.34  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 827.28 down 1.69  
Amsterdam: 157.8 down 1.6  
Sydney: AO Index: 558.1 down 7.5  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 973.8 up 1.5  
Brussels: General Index: 142.66 down 0.22  
Paris: CAC Index: 170.3 down 2.2  
Zurich: SCA General: 299.10 up 0.20

## CURRENCIES

**LONDON CLOSE**  
Sterling: \$1.3155 down 25pts  
Index: 77.9 down 0.4  
DM: 3.74 up 0.01  
FF: 11.4850 up 0.0250  
Yen: 317.50 up 0.23  
Dollar: Index: 135.8 up 0.1  
DM: 2.8380 up 0.0095  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling: \$1.3161  
Dollar: DM: 2.8360  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU: DM 59.7016  
SDR: DM 77.1507

## INTEREST RATES

**Domestic rates:**  
Bank base rates: 10  
Finance houses base rate: 9 1/2  
Discount market loans: week fixed  
N/A  
3 month interbank: 10 1/2-10 3/4  
**Euro currency rates:**  
3 month dollar: 12 1/2-12 3/4  
3 month DM: 5 1/2-5 3/4  
3 month FF: 12 1/2-12 3/4  
**US rates:**  
Bank prime rate: 13  
Fed funds: 11 1/2  
Treasury long bond: 97 - 10-14  
ECGD Fixed Rate Starling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period June 8, 1984 to July 3, 1984 inclusive: 9.488 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am: \$358 pm: \$353 1/2  
close: \$341.42 (\$259-94)  
New York (latest): \$353.25  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$351-52 (\$258-74)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$80-81 (\$50-61)  
\*Excludes VAT

## Trafalgar pulls out of Sealink bidding

By Our Financial Correspondent

Trafalgar House sprung a surprise yesterday by dropping out of the bidding for Sealink, British Rail's ferry and bus boat subsidiary which has been charting an erratic course towards privatization in the last few weeks.

Trafalgar House's name was notably absent when the deadline for bids set by Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank handling the sale, passed yesterday afternoon.

A brief sale manager's statement from Trafalgar's head office said that the board had decided it would not be in the company's best interests to bid for Sealink "at this stage" and "on the basis currently proposed".

Mr David Ewart, a director of Morgan Grenfell, said the bank had received what he described as three-and-a-half bids for Sealink. Two of the definite bids are known to have been made by Sea Containers and by the National Freight/Sealink management consortium.

The "half" refers to Common Brothers, the Norwegian-controlled Newcastle shipping group, which made a late entry into the bidding. The company said last night that it had made a formal bid, but had told Morgan Grenfell it was still firmly interested and would be hoping to catch up in the next few days.

There was no immediate comment from Ellerman Lines or from Mr Roy Carby, the entrepreneur, who are the two other names which have stayed in the Sealink bidding until this late stage.

Trafalgar House's decision is bound to lead to fresh speculation that it is about to renege its bid for P & O, after the Manchester shipowner's clearance of its original - but now lapsed - takeover attempt this year.

Trafalgar was one of the favourites to buy Sealink, with even some of its rivals acknowledging that it had the financial and managerial muscle to make the best bid for Sealink.

Morgan Grenfell has told the public that it will be evaluating and discarding their bids over the next 14 days, in the hope of completing the sale by the end of the month. Despite British Rail's original request for unconditional offers, the bids that have been made all have some conditions attached.

Mr James Sherwood, president of Sea Containers, said in a statement that in making its bid yesterday the company had not been deterred by Sealink's poor trading performance so far this year. The business had great potential, he said, adding: "I do not share the commonly held view that the Sealink payroll needs to be decimated before the business can be turned successful." Sea Containers' aim if its bid succeeds is to float Sealink on the Stock Exchange in three or four years.

## PCW names advised to delay acceptance

By Alison Eadie

The steering committee of Lloyd's names on PCW syndicates yesterday wrote to all 1,500 members urging them to delay acceptance of the £38.17m Minet-Alexander & Alexander Services offer for as long as possible. The offer closes on July 19.

The committee's advice, from Mr Robert Alexander, QC, said that, "on the material currently available, anyone who accepts the offer as it stands will be giving up potentially valuable, but as yet unvalued, legal rights". The lack of interest on the misappropriated money is a key point.

Mr Alexander decried the four-week time limit on names saying, "after one-and-a-half years of investigation there can be no justification for imposing so short a time limit on 'names'". Lloyd's this week refused to extend the solvency deadline past July 21. Other important points are the danger

of future losses to come from past mishandling of names' money, the uncertain tax position and the names' claims on the £25m recovered in Gibraltar should they not accept Minet's offer.

The offer consists of the £25m found in Gibraltar and £13m contributed by itself and A&AS to cover the remaining deficiency. The steering committee wants the £25m returned to count towards names' solvency tests, but Lloyd's has indicated this is very unlikely.

The committee also urged names to bear in mind that members' agents may have diverse interests to their own and names should realize this before seeking their advice. Acceptance of Minet's offer would mean that names would waive their rights to sue Minet, A&AS or members' agents.

The committee is also investigating whether Lloyd's was in breach of its statutory duty in policing the market.

## OFT investigating Avco

By Our Commercial Editor

Avco trust, a consumer finance company, is under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading for methods it is alleged to have adopted in recovering debts.

West Midlands County Council's consumer services department said: "We have had a number of complaints from consumers about Avco methods of trying to recover debts. These have been passed to the Office of Fair Trading."

The OFT said it was now investigating the complaints. Avco, based in Reading, Berkshire, is part of The American Avco Corporation, an

international consumer finance company, based in Connecticut.

Avco said yesterday that its detailed comments to the OFT were now being prepared and further comment was being withheld for the time being. The company, which has been operating in Britain since 1972 and has 95 branches around the country, has about 130,000 customers and about £100m out in loans. It offers domestic loans, both secured and unsecured.

The company is shirt sponsor for West Ham Football Club.

## Lazard and Hambros reveal holdings

By Our City Staff

Two more declarations of 15 per cent or more holdings in public companies were made yesterday by leading merchant banks. The declarations come after a ruling by the Takeover Panel under Substantial Acquisition Rule 11 that aggregate holdings of 15 per cent or more held on a discretionary basis on behalf of clients by a single fund manager should be revealed.

Lazard Bros disclosed that it

holds 19.2 per cent of the ordinary shares of its parent, S. Pearson. The holding largely represents S. Pearson family interests. Lazard always talks to the family before it deals in S. Pearson shares, the bank says.

Other significant Lazard holdings include 34.0 per cent of Davenport Brewery, where the bank acts for the trustees; 15.4 per cent of Wolstenholme Rink, also largely family inter-

ests; and 18.8 per cent of Synterials, an investment.

Hambros Bank revealed a 23.5 per cent stake in John I. Jacobs. This brings to 10 the total number of funds declaring stakes since the rule came into operation at the start of the month.

The others include Robert Fleming, with over 16 per cent of Turner and Newall and 18.3 per cent of Woolworth;

## Rebels hope to meet Tebbit

Stock Exchange rebels, anxious to gain more time for discussion on proposed market changes, were confident last night of arranging a meeting with Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The rebels represent small and medium-sized firms which may be threatened once negotiated commissions are introduced next autumn. The rebels want to impress on Mr Tebbit that more time is required to discuss the fine detail of changes.

# TR North America Investment Trust PLC

From end March 1983 to end March 1984 the Dow Jones Index rose 3%, The OTC Composite Index declined by 7.4%. These movements masked significant fluctuations in individual sectors.

Over this period TR North America maintained its asset value and share price. The dividend was again increased.

The US economy continues to grow strongly, although there is some danger of overheating. We are expecting political initiatives to lead to a reduced Budget deficit which will have a positive effect on the trade deficit. This in turn should lead to a better market.

Our investment policy is to continue to seek out medium and small size companies with above average growth prospects, which are undervalued by the market.

If you would like to know more about us, send for a copy of our newly published Annual Report.

The Company Secretary, TR North America Investment Trust PLC,  
Mermaid House, 3 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 3AF

Please send me a copy of your 1984 Annual Report

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



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A MEMBER OF THE TOUCHE REYNOLD MANAGEMENT GROUP  
TOTAL FUNDS UNDER GROUP MANAGEMENT EXCEED £2,200 MILLION



**NatWest announces that with effect from Monday, 9th July, 1984, its Base Rate is increased from 9 1/4% to 10% per annum.**

**The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are increased from 5 3/4% to 6 1/2% per annum.**

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

## Dairy group to import French fruit syrups Anchor moves into soft drinks

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Anchor Foods, the British sales arm of the New Zealand Dairy Board, is poised to attack the soft drinks market, with its annual sales of £2.2 billion, in an attempt to repeat its copybook new products success of aerosol dispensed cream. The aerosol cream was the first of its kind in Britain and has carved out a market worth £10m in two years.

Swindon-based Anchor is planning a transplant to Britain of one of France's favourite soft drinks - fruit syrups in a range of flavours which are mostly made up into long drinks but can also be used in alcoholic mixes, sorbets and many recipes.

Teisseire, in France, which will supply Anchor, claims to dominate the French soft drinks market in grocery outlets, according to Anchor.

Mr Alan Pollock, Anchor's managing director, said: "Fruit syrups have been sold in France for 200 years and are more or less a national institution. They



Alan Pollock: venturing outside the dairy product range

are virtually unknown in Britain. So it is an innovative product here in the same way as aerosol cream was."

In 1982, Anchor, its sales mainly New Zealand butter, started a programme of new product development to broaden its base and reduce dependence on EEC quota-controlled New Zealand products. As well as aerosol cream,

Anchor has introduced ready-to-serve milk shakes and a range of German-made savoury butters. A chocolate flavoured variation of aerosol cream has also been launched.

The fruit syrups are Anchor's first venture outside dairy products. Mr Keith Collins, business development manager at Anchor, said: "We expect to take market share from several sectors of the soft drinks market, such as the concentrated drinks (worth £290m a year in sales), the health juice drinks (£71m) and some of the carbonated drinks (£1,575m)".

Initial annual turnover for the syrups, whose base is concentrated natural juices, is expected to be £10m to £15m with a potential of rising to £30m, depending on Anchor's success in penetrating the big supermarket chains.

The syrups whose six flavours range from apple to green mint, will sell in cans at around £1.20. One can dilutes to four litres of fruit drink.











## FUNDS

## Investment trusts outperform rivals

Investment trusts have been a better investment than unit trusts over the last five years. That is one conclusion reached by the stockbroker Wood, Mackenzie in its annual report on the investment trust sector.

Unit trusts produced a total return of 142.3 per cent between December 1978 and December 1983. But the investment trust sector produced gains 7.2 per cent higher on asset value and 22.7 per cent on share value, also beating inflation and the FTA All-Share Index soundly.

The impressive share performance of investment trusts is mainly due to the narrowing of discounts to the asset value of the funds over the period reviewed from around 30 per cent to just over 23 per cent.

On the fashionable subject of the unitization of investment trusts, Wood, Mackenzie says it does not believe more unitizations are likely in the near future. Those which happened recently were "one off" events. So far there have been none this year and investment trusts are now performing too well to be worth unitizing anyway, the report said.

Richard Thomson

## A 'golden' loan

Home loans at 11.5 per cent are available on downpayment mortgages between £30,000 and £80,000 from the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society with their "Golden" scheme. Mortgages under this scheme can be used to purchase new homes or to remortgage existing ones up to a maximum of 75 per cent of the value of the property. The Golden loan also has no differentials. Further details available from Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, Cheltenham (Tel: 0242-35181).

## First for Halifax

The Halifax claims to be the first building society to have an automated teller machine in a supermarket. A Cardcash machine has been installed in one of Sainsbury's largest stores, at Moor Allerton, Leeds.

The Sainsbury's installation is seen as a pilot scheme by both parties. If it proves popular additional "remote" locations are possible. A Halifax Cardcash savings account can be opened for as little as £1. A small plastic card can be used to make deposits and withdrawals at branch counters in the normal way as well as in

the machines. Cardcash pays 8.25 per cent interest.

Machines are open from 9am to 12pm, seven days a week. Deposits of up to £250 per day can be made, deposits by cash or cheque are accepted straight into the machine and an instant account balance is obtainable. Further details from any branch of the Halifax or from its head office, Halifax (0422) 55777.

## Home 'log books'

Would-be homeowners should be given more information about the property they are about to buy, says the Anglia Building Society, which has come up with the idea of "log books" for houses. "This would give the purchaser full information on the construction of the house and any renovation or improvement work, as well as advice on use and maintenance", says Mr Tony Stoughton-Harris, chief general manager of the Anglia.

Young first-time buyers are making probably the biggest financial decision of their lives on the basis of less information than they would get when buying a washing machine or car. All consumer purchases come with full operating instructions, technical details and performance figures - except houses.



## New clause for Bill

A new clause is to be included in the present Finance Bill to make it clear that capital transfer tax agricultural relief will be available for stud farms engaged in the breeding and rearing of horses and for grazing associated with these activities. Section 96 and Schedule 14 of the Finance Act 1981 provide relief from CTT

for transfers in life and on death of agricultural property, including certain transfers of shares in companies which own or occupy farms.

The relief is a percentage reduction in the agricultural value of the qualifying property. There are a number of qualifying conditions, including an occupation test, which requires that for a minimum period before the transfer the property must have been occupied for agricultural purposes.

This term is not defined but doubt has arisen whether stud farming qualified for relief. The new clause removes that doubt.

## Imperial income

Imperial Life introduced a five-year guaranteed income bond this week with an annual net yield of 9.3 per cent, equal to 13.26 per cent gross for a basic rate taxpayer. Minimum investment is £1,000 and the net income is payable annually. In the event of death during the term, the original investment is returned, together with an additional £5.80 per £1,000 invested for each complete month since the previous year's income payment. The maximum age of entry is 80.

Further details from the Imperial Life Group of Companies, Imperial Life House, London Road, Guilford, Surrey.

## Yearly Plan launched

Post Office are now selling the new National Savings Yearly Plan - the scheme aimed at getting regular savers into Saving Certificates. Minimum investment is £20 a month with a maximum of £100 payable by standing order only. You save for a year and the proceeds are then used to purchase a special four year saving certificate. Return over the full five year period is 7.31 per cent - just above the 7.25 per cent available on the present 27th issue Saving Certificate (which you can hold in addition to the Yearly Plan). Interest on the Yearly Plan is guaranteed and tax free.

## Offer to students

The National Westminster Bank is offering first-year students a 25 cash gift and free banking while studying. This commission-free banking facility will also extend to six months after a course is completed even if overdrafts are arranged. NatWest also offers a free servicecard and preferential rate overdrafts at 1 per cent over the bank's base rate, up to £100. This is to cover, for example, the late receipt of grant, cheques, or for books, advance rent or

travel costs. Also offered is a free cheque-card to 18-year-olds or over who are receiving local education authority grants.

A Student Service booklet, giving details is available from any branch.

## Anglia offer

Another building society is offering incentives to young savers. The Anglia has launched its Top Saver account with a "more grown-up style of saving". Top Saver will pay interest totalling 7 per cent - 6.50 per cent annually plus a bonus each birthday of another 0.50 per cent. Top Saver Club produces a complete young investor's kit, together with a savings incentive scheme, club magazine and competitions. The minimum initial investment is £2 - £1 to open the Top Saver account and £1 once-for-all club membership fee. The incentive scheme is based on a colour watchchart showing coins from around the world. Members receive a pack of three foreign coins on joining the club. Each time a further £5 is saved in the account, they will be able to collect another pack from their Anglia branch, building towards a full collection of 15 coins. Details from any branch, or ring the Anglia Building Society (Tel: 0604 485353).

## Target leads a mixed bunch

The shakeout in shares during May is still affecting the performance of unit trusts, even though the FT index rallied from its June 1 low of 796, touching 817 by the end of the month.

Six months into the year, barely half the unit trusts on offer are still showing a rise and only 50 trusts out of the total of 604 have managed to put on more than 10 per cent.

The bottom of the performance table is dominated by Australian and American funds, but there is no pattern at the top which contains a hotch-pot of special situations, income, smaller company and recovery trusts.

Target's Special Situations trust is top, showing a return of 21.8 per cent over the period. Target has two other trusts into the top 15 - Target Income at number 10 and Target Professional 15th.

Fidelity shows up well too, with Fidelity Japan in third place and Fidelity Maximum Income Equity, and Fidelity

Growth and Income trusts in 16th and 17th places respectively. The biggest gains last month came from funds specializing in American technology and small company stocks, although the improvement was from a low base line after the collapse of this sector last summer.

Investors in commodity and Australian trusts will find their funds languishing at the bottom of the table, showing losses of anything between 15 and 25 per cent with the American funds registering only marginally better performances.

But the scene can change quickly. Mr Jamie Berry of Berry Asset Management said: "I am still firmly of the view that we are in a bull market", although he believes that upward movements will be punctuated by setbacks like the one seen in May.

A lot can happen in a month as the performance figures for The Times unit trust competition reveal. These run from February 1st rather than

January 1st and a very different top 10 emerges here. Over this five-month period, the top performer is FS Balanced Growth showing a 22.8 per cent rise with Manulife High Income in second place and Britannia's Gold and General trust in third position with a 13.2 per cent increase. The competition does not end until December but at the half-way stage none of the entrants picked either the first or second trusts.

Mr Tabet Ismail, aged 16, of North London, picked Britannia Gold & General as his first choice with Gartmore Gold and Target Gold as second and third options.

"I chose the gold funds because that's where people put their money in a crisis. I think there will be a big disaster in the banking system and that will trigger off a rush into gold. The invasion of Lebanon and trouble in the Gulf, I thought would all push up the price of gold," he said.

The experts on our panel of unit trust advisers who were

heavily into Japan and the Far East when the competition started now believe that it will be an American fund which will be the winner by the end of the year.

Mr Peter Hargreaves of Hargreaves Lansdown was the only one of our panel who picked an American fund - Perpetual American Growth as his first choice. "Sentiment has a lot to do with it and at the moment people won't buy American stock. But looking at the relative values, there is definitely much more to go for in the US than in the Far East".

## Unit Trust Performance

Current value of £100 invested over 6 months to July 1st 1984

Target Special Sit	121.8
Manulife High Income	121.8
Fidelity Japan	119.9
Oppenheimer Income & Grth	119.1
Wardley Income	118.8
HBI Smaller Companies	118.5
Mercury Recovery	118.9
Murray Smaller Companies	116.4
M&G Midland & General	115.6
Target Income	115.3

\* Offer to offer price - net income reinvested.  
Source: Planned Savings

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## Leicestercard Retirement Account

The new Leicestercard Retirement Account offers important advantages over typical building society savings accounts:

- \* Tax relief on your savings—at least £3 on every £10
- \* Tax-free growth of your savings
- \* A unique combination of investments for maximum security and maximum growth
- \* A tax-free lump sum and a guaranteed high income for life

## Just look at the difference

The table shows how £30 saved monthly by a man of 43 accumulates with the Leicestercard Retirement Account compared with a typical building society savings account:

TYPICAL BUILDING SOCIETY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	LEICESTERCARD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT
Total cost <b>£7,560</b> less tax relief (NIL) <b>= £7,560</b> Value at retirement <b>£17,280</b>	Total cost <b>£7,560</b> less tax relief <b>£2,268</b> <b>= £5,292</b> Value at retirement <b>£30,114</b>

A total difference, with tax relief, of over £15,000 for the same investment

## Almost doubled income

Your Leicestercard fund can provide you with a gross income of £131 a month, guaranteed for life—a typical ordinary savings account by comparison would give you £165 gross (£115.50 net).

Alternatively you can take out a tax-free lump sum of £8,796 and still enjoy a guaranteed gross monthly income of about £220.

## Who can open an account?

To qualify, you have to be one of the 12 million people who are self-employed, or partners in firms, or working for companies that do not provide them with pension schemes. You must also be prepared to leave your money untouched until you retire or you are at least 60 years old.

Examples assume a standard rate taxpayer earning at 45 with interest and tax credit at current levels and a projected growth rate of 12.2% on the Leicestercard Retirement Account. The figures quoted may rise or fall, depending on interest rates and the investment performance achieved by Target Life Assurance in managing the Leicestercard Retirement Account.

## Why the Account is unique

Your savings are placed in a special tax-free pension fund account. Half is invested for maximum security in the Leicester Building Society and currently earns interest at the exceptionally high rate of 9.75%.

The other half is invested for maximum growth by Target Life Assurance's outstanding investment team. Past experience is not necessarily a guide to the future, but over the past five years Target's Managed Pension Fund has outperformed all others, averaging over 35% p.a. growth.

## Investing is so easy

You can open a Leicestercard Retirement Account with a lump sum if you choose or you can save from as little as £30 a month to build up a really worthwhile retirement income.

Don't you owe it to your future to find out more? Send off for full details or call in to your local Leicester branch without delay—the address is in the Yellow Pages.

It could make all the difference when you retire.

To: Leicestercard Retirement Account Division, M&P Financial Services Ltd, FREEPOST, Brighton BN1 1ZY. Telephone: (0273) 725392.

Please send me complete details, without obligation. I am interested in: EITHER investing a lump sum OR making regular savings ☐ Please tick box.

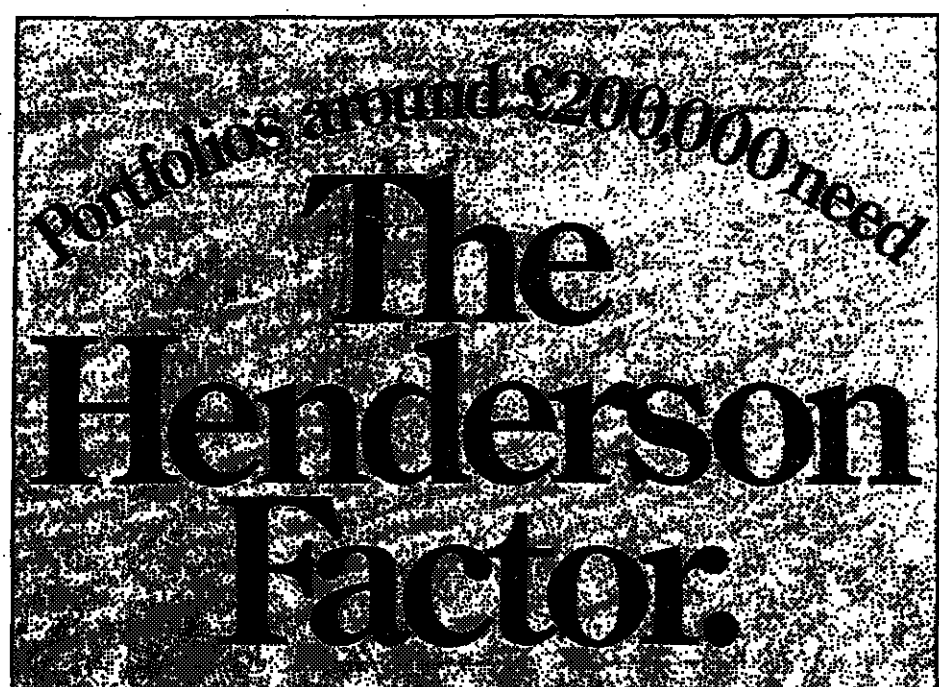
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FAMILY MONEY

INSURANCE

# The tragic lessons of injuries at school

Sports day is here again. Thousands of parents will soon be making the annual pilgrimage to watch their little angels panting along race tracks and flinging themselves into long jump pits. Yet sadly, according to one insurance broker in the field, sports accidents are among the most common causes of permanent disability to children. Few parents may have considered the possibility of a serious injury to their child, but even fewer are likely to have done anything about it.

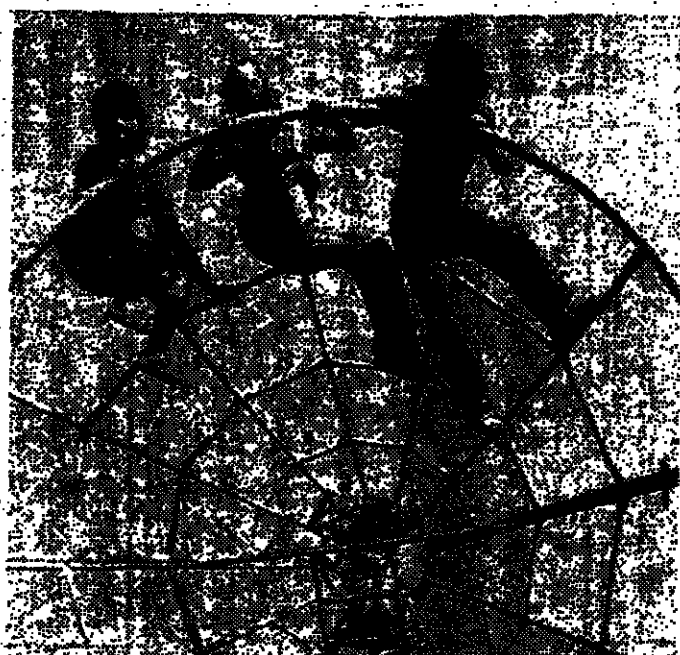
For as well as the emotional trauma when a child receives a permanent injury, the financial strain on the parents can be immense. Special equipment may have to be purchased to look after the child, and specialized advice and care may also be necessary. While some injuries it may even be necessary to alter the home or even move to a new one if, for example, the child can no longer climb stairs.

On top of this, if he will never be able to earn a living as a result of his injury, money will have to be put aside to support him and continue his care for the rest of his life.

This sort of expense is likely to be beyond the capabilities of most parents without a radical cut in living standards. If, that is, they have not taken out a personal accident policy on their child.

One solution is simply to take out an individual policy marketed by an insurance company. A typical policy is the one offered by Norwich Union. This gives a sum assured of £15,000 paid in a lump sum in the event of "total permanent disability", which covers injuries such as the loss of use of limbs or eyes, as the result of an accident. A so-called "continental scale" is also available on the policy which gives percentages of the full sum assured in the case of lesser injuries, such as damaged fingers or toes.

This basic policy costs £10 a year. But £15,000 is thin cover for a lifetime's disability and so, for an extra 60p per £1,000 additional sum assured, Norwich Union will extend the cover up to £50,000. The policy also includes £1,000 death cover to pay the costs of burial which is all the law allows in the case of children.



The joys of playing on a climbing frame can sometimes end in permanent injuries

Norwich Union is one of only a few companies offering this type of cover, and the company says it only sells between 60 and 100 policies a year. A cheaper more generous and more commonly used form of insurance is a policy taken out by the school to cover all its pupils.

This type of policy has recently become quite widespread among independent schools. Usually the school simply adds the cost of the insurance to the school fees and parents have to opt out of it if they do not want to pay. As a result many parents may not even be aware if their children are insured or not.

Holmwood, Back and Manson, the pioneer in this kind of policy, has 600 schools on its books. The policy offers a maximum lump sum cover in the event of total disability of £200,000 at a cost of £2.40 per term - clearly a better deal than Norwich Union's. Towry Law, the other principal group offering a similar policy, pays only £100,000 for much the same cost.

State schools, however, are not normally so well covered against accidents to their pupils. Because there are no fees paid,

insurance companies try to sell policies on a contracting-in basis. Parents are circularized and invited to join the scheme. Unfortunately, partly because of bad school-parent consultation and partly because of the extra expense, few state schools have managed to persuade parents to enter such schemes. Local education authorities themselves refuse to pay for such insurance, except for a few in England and Wales which have accepted the need for special policies covering accidents during rugby games.

So what protection is there for children in state schools? The parents of an injured child can always try to win compensation through court action by proving the school was negligent. But negligence may be hard to prove if, for instance, a child sticks a hand through a window when no one is looking. Moreover, this is only relevant when the accident takes place at the school itself.

The comfort of the personal accident policies is that they provide cover wherever was at fault in causing the accident wherever and whenever it happens.

Richard Thomson

CENTRAL HEATING

# Keeping warm under cover

If your central heating breaks down, the odds are that it will happen only a day after the guarantee expires.

The Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association has introduced a new central heating extended warranty or your money back if you have to pay for big repairs during the first five years after the installation of your system.

The warranty also applies if you have a new boiler to replace one which has become outdated or inefficient. The guarantee is available from all 600 HVCA members, who specialize in central heating for the home. If you have difficulty in locating an HVCA member in your area, telephone the home heating inquiry line on 01-229 5543

(031-225 8212 in Edinburgh; Belfast 744496 in Northern Ireland).

The warranty can be extended to cover two or four years following the first year's HVCA guarantee. To cover a complete central heating system for a total of five years will work out at £90; for three years £45. To cover the boiler only costs £37.50 for five years or £30 for three years.

If your equipment breaks down after the HVCA members one-year double guarantee has expired, but within the extended warranty period - you simply contact your authorized agent (whose name will be on the insurance policy) and arrange for the repairs to be

carried out. You pay for the work, but send the receipted invoice direct to Charterhouse Insurance Services who will reimburse you under the terms of the policy.

There is an excess on each claim - £15 on the four-year cover, £10 on the two-year scheme. This means you have to pay the first £10 or £15 of each claim.

In addition, you have to have the boiler serviced at least annually from the date of installation. Details from the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association, ESCA House, 34 Palace Court, Bayswater, London W2 4JG (Tel: 01-229 2488).

Lorna Bourke

# Midland Bank Interest Rates

## Base Rate

Increases by ¾% to 10% per annum with effect from 9th July 1984.

## Deposit Accounts

Interest paid on 7 day deposit accounts increases by ¾% to 6½% p.a. with effect from 9th July 1984.

## Save and Borrow Accounts

Interest paid on credit balances increases to the above Deposit Account rate and interest charged on overdrawn balances remains at 18½% p.a. with effect from 6th August 1984. APR 19.8%.



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Year 3	16,320	9,132	
Year 4	24,004	9,009	
Year 5	28,499	8,803	
Year 6	46,779	8,425	
Year 7	53,745	8,004	

To find out more, complete and return the coupon without delay. N.B. It should be remembered that unit values can fall as well as rise. While past performance cannot necessarily be taken as a guide to the future, the skills of the management group involved are clearly well above average.

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# PROPERTY

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TENNIS: CONNORS THROUGH TO HIS SIXTH WIMBLEDON FINAL

# Connors casts a cloud over final

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Jimmy Connors reached his sixth Wimbledon singles final, 10 years after the first, by beating Ivan Lendl 6-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 in two hours and 56 minutes. Connors is only two months short of his 32nd birthday. It was therefore all the more to his credit that he achieved and maintained such a superb level of performance for almost three hours on a hot and muggy afternoon.

Connors never spares himself on the big occasion. Yesterday he played his usual strenuously aggressive all-action game. His quickness and agility were often astonishing. Lendl stayed with him for almost three sets but then tired. His legs no longer had enough running in them.

Afterwards Lendl said that preparing for the French championship and winning it, then preparing for the switch to grass, had taken too much out of him. Two months of practice and competition on two surfaces had taken their toll. His stamina had been eroded. Consequently, he said, he fired more quickly than was customary.

Lendl is still learning his trade on grass. But in the span of 12 months he twice reached Wimbledon semi-finals and, in between, advanced to the Australian final. That has to be regarded as satisfactory progress for a man who is ill at ease on grass.

The fact remains that, as one has always expected, grass (and Connors) turned out to be too fast and jazzy for Lendl. He is a Wagnerian type. All those improvised fireworks were too much for him.

The best-known family in the land, plus the rest of us, could not have asked for much more from the first three sets. The weather cast a bright glow over the arena. The players' silhouettes were sharply outlined on the lonely island of green. The tennis was exciting and entrancing. A contrast in method and personality added spice to a dish that could hardly have been better served. There were no break points in the first set and only the first game went to deuce. But the heat in the first set and only the first game went to deuce. But the heat of battle was consuming. Lendl, tall and powerful, with just a hint of arrogance, served seven aces (there were to be 10 more later) and fired some wristy but ferocious forehands down the line.

Many of the latter were half-volleys because Connors was driving deeply enough to make Lendl hurry. Lendl kept tapping imaginary shins off his shoes, as if still hovering mentally in some half-world between Paris and Wimbledon. Often his top-spin cause mislaid that twanged like broken banjo strings.

Connors was throwing himself all over the place, as if this was his last afternoon on earth and he wanted to live every minute of it to the full. He flung himself into the line of Lendl's services like a suicidal acrobat, yet repeatedly contrived returns that were perfectly timed. The speed of Connors's reactions, notably when returning service or when hurrying to and fro in the forecourt, was often breathtaking.

When working for openings, Connors swung the ball from corner to corner, somehow finding patches of accelerating grass on the worn surface - with

drives like shafts of sunlight. Poor Lendl was pestered by a succession of yorkers - shots that threatened to rearrange the structure of his ankles and, consequently, were awfully difficult to return adequately.

That was the nature of the game and the players. The first set was decided in which Lendl had two bites at the cherry. He could have won the game 7-2 but instead took it 7-4 with the help of a Connors double-fault.

Connors broke to 2-0 in the second set with a deep low drive to Lendl's backhand. How Connors nagged away at that backhand. In the last game of the set Lendl had a break point (but put a service return in the net) after Connors had been warned for violating the code of conduct.

When his first service of the game was called out Connors walked to the forecourt, looked towards the off-court line judge, and the judge's electronic ally, and put his fingers to his nose. After the warning, Connors threatened to quit. Was he trying to tame a Yorkshire umpire? No chance of doing that.

The third set was crucial. Lendl was serving for a 4-1 lead and had two break points for a 5-3 lead. But Connors somehow found a gear beyond top. When Connors broke through for 6-5, on his fourth break point, Lendl suddenly began to look like a boxer who had taken too many punches. Something died inside him. He was no longer playing tennis. He was just hitting balls.

Connors began to serve aces and Lendl began to serve double-faults. While Connors was breaking service in the first game of the fourth set they took a breather - each of them leaning on the net as if chafing over the garden wall. Well, by that time the match had become a social occasion, anyway. The only question mark at the end was the news that Connors had an ailing shoulder. That cast a cloud over tomorrow's final.

Chris Lloyd will almost certainly have to make do with second prize, £45,000, when she plays Martina Navratilova in the women's singles final this afternoon. Miss Navratilova, four-time champion, has beaten Mrs Lloyd in their last 11 matches and should be £90,000 richer after today's clash.

Miss Navratilova, though, is more interested in joining the seven women who have won the Wimbledon singles title five times or more. She has all the money she needs and is primarily concerned with consolidating a supremacy that could eventually justify comparison with the greatest players in the history of women's tennis.

Mrs Lloyd has one unique record: she is the only player of either sex who has won at least one grand slam singles title every year for 10 consecutive years. Her chances of extending that sequence are slim. But the dry, worn courts suit her ground strokes better than Wimbledon's fast grass usually does - and Mrs Lloyd's game currently has a sharper edge than has been evident for years.

## Lendl is best player

New York (AP) - Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, has been named Volvo Grand Prix Player of the month for June following his victory in the French Open Championships.



Serving up a return match, Connors (above) is on top of his game while McEnroe, whom he meets in the final, gets down to it. (Photographs: Ian Stewart)



## Miss Durie halted at the double

Jo Durie's gallant attempt to reach the women's Wimbledon singles final was halted on Court One at Wimbledon yesterday.

Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver, who have won the title for the past three years, beat Miss Durie and the American Ann Kiyomura-Hayashi 6-3, 6-4 in 65 minutes with more powerful tennis.

Only last month the holders completed a grand slam of doubles titles at the French Open and they have become practically unbeatable during the past year. One break of service in each set settled the match. Mrs Hayashi dropped her service in the fourth game of the first set and Miss Durie in the opening game of the second.

But John Lloyd and the Australian, Wendy Turnbull, title winners at the French Open and they beat the Australian Michael Fancutt and Candy Reynolds, of the United States, 6-3, 6-4 in 57 minutes. Miss Reynolds dropped her service once in each set.

Wimbledon looks certain to create a new attendance record for the championships this year, easily beating the 360,442 set in 1983. However, it will still be a long way short of the world record attendance of 427,313 set at the US Open last September.

Wimbledon's daily figures last year averaged 27,726 spectators over the fortnight, while the US Open averaged only 18,587 per day over the same period. How do the Americans account for 67,000 more spectators? They boost their attendance by closing at 6.0 each evening and charging everyone to come back in for an evening floodlit session. That way they have 23 sessions to Wimbledon's 13.

Adriano Panatta has still to decide on who will play in which event in Italy's Davis Cup quarter-final he against Australia next week. But he has indicated that his younger brother, Claudio, and Gianni Occhipio, the team's experienced grass court players, would play the singles. The other members of the Italian team are Francesco Semprini and the newcomer Simone Colombo.

## David Miller adds his tribute to a king with a twinkle

### Friends with memories raise a glass to champagne Perry

Seidman was it more evident than this year that the event was bigger than any individual. Wimbledon has been significant because it was Wimbledon, not, in the main, because of the quality of the tennis. Astonishing prize money for men and even more disproportionately for women have certainly not helped the spectacle, and older viewers in search of entertainment have lingered nostalgically by outside courts while Rosewall, Stolle, Newcombe, Stan Smith, Fildel and others have gracefully retraced old steps in the senior events.

McEnroe and Navratilova have lacked the opponents to oblige them to produce their absolute pack of techniques in the arena which is synonymous with style. So it was fitting that Fred Perry, champion for the first time 50 years ago and now honoured by a statue and the dedication of the southeast gates, should once more make his mark with a party on Thursday evening, the like of which not even Wimbledon has seen before.

Fred and his wife, Bobbie, filled the members enclosure with some 300 personal guests for a dinner dance which had some of the elegance of bygone days and the glitter which the boisterous Fred once so enjoyed in Hollywood. Nat Temple's dance band gave the mood of Coward and Berlin, and Peter Ustinov and Lord Carr reflected the wide spectrum of an international career which had such modest roots.

It was a well received gesture by R. E. Haddingham, chairman of the All England Club, to acknowledge in his short tribute to the remarkable player, that while we might all have read in Fred's books of Wimbledon's socially unfriendly attitude all these years ago, he hoped that Fred knew it was today the most hospitable of clubs. What would

they not give, he implied, for a Perry of today, an attitude echoed by Jean Borotra, who made a surprise presentation from Cochet, Lacoste and himself, three of the four famous French mucksters, in respect of the golden era of Britain's Davis Cup team.

Fred who this time last year was near to death smiled that knowing benign smile: the old showmanship was still there. Not only did he provide everyone with a commemorative medal, but he entertained with a generosity which none will forget. It was nice, he remarked with a twinkle, to have all one's friends and relations together when it was not a wedding or a funeral.

Perry is in no doubt about today's ladies final: he thinks that the element of nerves which once existed in Martina Navratilova's game has gone, and that even Mrs Lloyd's renaissance and commanding dismissal of Hanna Mandlikova will not now be enough. "Chris has lost a fraction of her speed," she may know what she wants to do with the ball, but she has to get to it first. We are talking about a difference of maybe only two or three inches - but that can be critical," he said.

It was a question of inches which was mostly the talk around one of the tables on Thursday evening, where three experts in different fields analysed technique: Henry Cotton, Denis Compton and Dan Maskell. Cotton, at 77, two years Perry's senior, said the story that in 1934 he had wished Perry good luck for Wimbledon with the comment that he himself would be winning the Open two weeks later could have been true, but was not.

Cotton, who has always been obsessed with technique, observes that television sound is now so good that you can tell

when a Test batsman has a tight or loose grip by the noise of leather on wood. "I think some of England's batsmen hold the bat so loosely now that West Indies twist bats actually fall in their hands if the ball does not strike the middle of the blade."

It is instinct which makes the great player in any sport, says Cotton, not instruction. "To play the outstanding shots in any game, you first have to find the ball and you cannot teach anyone how to do that. You cannot instruct a player how to pull a ball to square leg from wide of the off stump like Dennis did."

Compton, who gave more entertainment in half an hour than many do in a day, remembers he did not have much coaching and thinks that some of England's current batsmen, with bat raised towards gully half way through a fast bowler's run-up, looks as if they are playing beach cricket. "The backlift and stroke have to be one continuous movement."

Cotton says you can't convert someone to a golf cricket or tennis, into a bigger hitter than they naturally are, and that he mostly under-estimated his strength. He and Maskell agree that there would be substantially more entertainment in tennis if players were restricted to one serve, with only one option of pace or spin: Cotton would raise the net six inches! It was the sort of discussion which one wished could have continued all night.

## Yesterday's results at Wimbledon

### Men's singles

Holder: J P McEnroe (US)  
Semi-finals  
J S Connors (US) vs I Lendl (CZ), 6-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.  
J McEnroe (US) vs P Cash (AUS), 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

● The following result was resolved too late for inclusion in yesterday's edition.

Semi-finals  
P Cash and P McNamee (AUS) vs M T Fancutt and P Doolan (AUS) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3, 6-7, 7-5.

### Women's doubles

Holders: M Navratilova and P H Shriver (US)  
Semi-finals  
K Joran and A E Smith (US) vs B C Potter and S A Walsh (GB) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.  
M Navratilova and P H Shriver (US) vs J M Durie (GB) and A Hayashi (JPN), 6-3, 6-4.

### Mixed doubles

Holders: J M Lloyd (GB) and W M Turnbull (AUS)  
Semi-finals  
A Giammusso and Miss S A Walsh (US) vs J J Jarmen (US) and Miss C Taylor (GB) 7-5, 7-6.  
J M Lloyd (GB) and Miss E M Sayers (AUS) vs J M Durie (GB) and Miss C Reynolds (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

● J M Lloyd (GB) and W M Turnbull (AUS) vs M T Fancutt (AUS) and C Reynolds (US), 6-1, 6-4, 6-0.  
● The following results were resolved too late for inclusion in yesterday's edition.

Third round  
K Joran (AUS) and Miss A TEMESVARI (HUN) vs P Cash (AUS) and Miss R D Fancutt (AUS), 6-4, 7-6.  
A Giammusso and Miss S A Walsh (US) vs R L L Cotton (AUS) and Miss A E Smith (US), 6-2, 6-1.  
J M Lloyd (GB) and W M Turnbull (AUS) vs M T Fancutt (AUS) and C Reynolds (US), 6-2, 6-2.

Quarter finals  
S STEWART (US) and E M SAYERS (AUS) vs M ESTEP and M NAVRATILOVA (US), 6-1, 6-4.  
● The following results were resolved too late for inclusion in yesterday's edition.

### Vilas out of cup team

Georgia (AP) - Guillermo Vilas has withdrawn from Argentina's Davis Cup team to meet the United States in the quarter-finals here from July 13-15.

## GOLF

## Lyle keeps calm and stays in front

From Mitchell Platts

Stockholm

Not even Sandy Lyle could avoid the calamities which beset many a card in the second round of the Scandinavian Open here yesterday. At the short 12th a fairly innocuous hole compared to some of the real terrors on the Sven Tumba country club course, he marked down a five. Even so, Lyle, rallying immediately with a birdie at the next, eventually finished with a respectable 72. Moreover, it gave him a half-way aggregate of 137, five under par, and a three stroke lead from Derrick Cooper (68) and Carl Mason (70).

The interesting aspect of Lyle's error was that it should come at such an ordinary hole. Yet it can be traced to the theory that a course such as this, which is so mentally demanding, can punish the golfer who momentarily drops his guard. Lyle's seven iron took six and the turf a foot behind the ball, which came up 30 yards short of the green.

For such a talented player, only a loss of concentration could account for such imprudence. That he also took three putts, missing from 18 inches, was inexcusable.

Lyle, however, has a history of making elementary errors. His eagerness to get on with the game has often led to putts being missed which, on the face of it, were nothing more than tap-ins. Where he benefits is in not allowing them to get under his skin. There is more ammunition to be fired, and Lyle's 13th took him to the greenside bunker, from where he successfully got up and down in two for a birdie.

Others lacked the ability to insulate themselves against the inevitable disasters. Bill Longmuir and Des Smyth took six and seven respectively at the 17th, a toruous hole, running almost parallel to the great lake. Since both started their rounds at the 10th, there was time for further accidents. Longmuir dropped a shot at the next, the next three holes, Smith took six at the short 3rd.

Early in the day Craig Stadler, the former US Masters Champion, took a six and a seven in successive par fives. He finished with a 74, sufficient to avoid the embarrassment of missing the half way cut, and also Aoki, of Japan, also survived by attaching a much improved 68 to his opening 77. Sam Torrance, the defending champion, was a victim of the guillotine. Manuel Piñero, of Spain, wore a broader smile after a hole in one at the 3rd (159 yards) for which he received a car.

## Second round leaders

197 S Lyle, 63, 72  
148 D Cooper, 72, 68; C Mason, 70, 70.  
147 H Westwood, 72, 75; T Torrance, 68, 57.  
146 B Longmuir, 70, 71; M Clayton, 68, 72.  
145 G Taylor (AUS), 69, 73; T Blackman (US), 72, 68; M Marsh (AUS), 69, 73; H Clark, 74, 69.  
144 R Davis (AUS), 78, 57; C Belling (US), 71, 72; J Johnston, 71, 72; C Hobbs (AUS), 72, 71.  
143 M James, 69, 75; C O'Connor Jr (Ire), 70, 74; D Hapstead (US), 72, 71; G Brown Jr, 75, 68; W Humphreys, 72, 75; M Macdonald, 69, 75.

## Ailing Faldo returns to Britain

Nick Faldo has returned to Britain after an attack of food poisoning forced him to withdraw from the Western Open, which started on the Butler National course in Chicago, on Thursday (Mitchell Platts writes). Faldo, who missed the half-way cut in each of his last two tournaments on the United States circuit, is not defending the Lawrence Bailey International at the Belfry, which starts next Wednesday. Instead, he plans to return to St Andrew's and practice for the Open, which starts on Thursday week.

● Oak Brook, Illinois, (Reuters) - Danny Edwards and Loren Roberts, of the United States, both returned five under par, to share the first-round lead in the Western Open, yesterday.

Greg Norman, the Canadian Open champion from Australia, and Nick Price, of South Africa, were one stroke away at 68, along with five Americans: Scott Simpson, D A Welby, Lennie Clements, Jocy Sindelar and Lance Ten Broeck.

Fred Couples, Hal Sutton and Mark McNulty, of South Africa, were among the players tied on 69. Tom Watson and the defending champion, Mark McCumber, returned 71, one under par, and the Masters champion, Ben Crenshaw, finished on 73.

Norman, who has won twice in the last five weeks, said afterwards: "The conditions were ideal today and I took advantage of it. I played very aggressively and it paid off."

LEADING SCORES: First round US writers listed: 67, 0 Edwards (US) and Nick Price (SA), 68, 68; S Simpson D A Welby, Lennie Clements, Jocy Sindelar, Hal Sutton and Mark McNulty, 69; Greg Norman, 69; Fred Couples, S Hoot, P Hapstead, A Miller, O'Connor Jr, 70; Tom Watson, 71; Ben Crenshaw, 73; Mark McCumber, 73; Nick Faldo, 74; D Hapstead, 75; G Brown Jr, 75; W Humphreys, 75; K C Liao (Taiwan), 81; Y Kaneko (Jpn), 85; K C Liao (Taiwan), 85.

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## ATHLETICS

## Russians to make a rare appearance

By Pat Butcher

Yuri Sedikh and Sergei Litvinov, who between them broke the world hammer record six times in Cork last Tuesday, are among eight Soviet athletes coming to London for the Peugeot Talbot games next week.

Sedikh, a double Olympic champion, is the new record holder with 86.34 metres, an advance of 2.20m on Litvinov's old record. He is one of the three Soviet athletes who will be competing at Crystal Palace next Friday who have broken world records in the last month, an eloquent reminder of what we are going to be missing at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The other two recent world record breakers are Tamara Bykova, 2.05m in the high jump, and Sergei Bubka, 5.88m in the pole vault. The rest of the team is no less distinguished. Tatiana Kazankina has three Olympic gold medals and an outstanding world 1,500 metres record of 3min 52.47sec, which she set in Zurich four years ago, when beating Mary Decker of the United States by about 80m.

Gennadiy Advzenko, world high jump champion; Dimitri Dimitriev, who was only fouled of a world championship medal last year by a bad judging decision, and Greigory

Yenets, one of the world's leading triple jumpers.

This visit of Soviet athletes to a Western European "permit" meeting was made possible by a modification three months ago of International Amateur Athletic Federation rules governing appearance money. What are normally referred to as "trust funds," by which device athletes remain "amateur," were officially called "athletes' funds."

This was not acceptable to the Soviet bloc federations, and the term now used is "athletes' funds," signifying that all monies won by Soviet athletes stay with their federation, thus avoiding any hint of individual professionalism, still anathema to Soviet authorities.

Wolverhampton and Bilston A.C., whose eight years reign as British League champions was ended by Birechfield last year, are flying several of their athletes back from last night's international match against Spain and Sweden in Gateshead, to Birmingham for the last league match, in which they start on nine points, behind Haringey's 10.5 and Birechfield's 9.5.



Running battle: Miss Budd (left) and Mrs Benning

## Benning has a say

Christine Benning, one of Britain's leading middle distance runners, has launched a new attack on the politicians and athletics officials who allow Zola Budd to be come a British runner (Pat Butcher writes).

In an interview published in *Athletics Weekly* yesterday, Miss Benning, who has been selected to run in the Olympic 1,500 metres event, is quoted as saying: "I think it is appalling that she should be eligible to become a member of the British team so quickly after leaving South Africa. Surely she should have served a qualification period like Sydney Maree had to do in the

United States, and sports men and women are expected to do in Britain in other sports.

Miss Benning relates how she and other leading British women were harassed by the media, and even asked on the Sunday evening (after Miss Budd's first run in Britain) to review the season. She eventually wrote an addendum to the interview, which ends: "I am a member of the British team. The British board should take note that athletes in other countries expressed sympathy with us and great annoyance that the trials degenerated into yet another chapter in the 'saga of Zola Budd'."

## Bumpy ride for grand prix drivers in Dallas

With the temperature hovering around the 100F mark tomorrow's inaugural Dallas Grand Prix on a bumpy new circuit is going to be an uncomfortable experience for the Formula One drivers. The uneven surface of the 2.42-mile, 15-turn track has certainly not pleased the drivers during practice.

"It's always very difficult to organize a new race like this," said the former world champion, Niki Lauda of Austria, who trails only his McLaren teammate, Ales Prost, of France, in the current points standings.

Keke Roseberg of Finland, the 1982 world champion, agreed with Lauda about the rough surface, but was not in accord on the safety of the new track.

"I was surprised it wasn't as quick as I thought it would be," explained Roseberg, who drives for Williams. "That solved some of the safety questions we (the drivers) had. "But it was bumpy than we thought it would be. It has nothing to do with driving, but the bumpiness makes the job very unpleasant. The heat would be easier to take if the circuit was smooth."

## IN BRIEF

### Merit table rejected

There will be no national rugby union merit table in England next season, (David Hands writes). Despite pleas from both the outgoing and the incoming presidents of the Rugby Football Union for a revision of the competitive structure of English rugby, the annual meeting of the RFU at the Hilton Hotel yesterday voted in favour of a motion by the Yorkshire Rugby Union rejecting the proposed merit table by a mere 18 votes.

TENNIS: Matt Doyle, who will play for Ireland next week in a Davis Cup tie in Spain, beat Ian Schindler, of the United States, 6-2.

6-4 in the semi-finals of the Irish open championships at the Fitzwilliam Club, Dublin, yesterday. Doyle, holder of the title for the past four seasons, meets his second seed, Sashi Menon, on India, in today's final.

DIVING: Kelly McCormick, whose mother won four Olympic gold medals in diving, won the women's springboard event at the US Olympic trials in Indianapolis on Thursday.

GOLF: Laurie Peterson and Dianne Dailey shared the lead after the first round of the women's tournament at Toledo, Ohio yesterday following rounds of 68 four-under-par.

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# RACING: PACEMAKER MAY PLAY INTO HANDS OF HERN FOUR-YEAR-OLD

## Morcon has ideal credentials for Sandown showpiece

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Henry Candy's decision to let Time Charter, who has already won an Oaks, a Coronation Cup and a King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, take her chance in the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown today has certainly made this year's race far more interesting than it would otherwise have been.

However, much as I admire Time Charter, I still think that she will be beaten this afternoon by Morcon (nap), who is a greatly improved horse this season. This is Morcon's ground and this is his distance. On the other hand Time Charter would probably prefer a shade more give in the ground and a slightly longer trip.

Time Charter will have a pacemaker, Society Boy, to ensure that the stamina of her rivals is tested to the full. Yet there is ground for thinking that the lead Society Boy will give, will also suit Morcon, and expect to see Willie Carson take over from Society Boy and set sail for home early in the straight in an endeavour to give his rivals the ship.

Those were the tactics he employed to win the Prince of Wales Stakes at Royal Ascot and if he performs as well this afternoon he will prove difficult to catch on a course which suits runners who enjoy being up there with the pace.

Candy has made no secret of the fact that he regards today's race as simply a one-off en route to Ascot for a second crack at the Diamond Stakes, which is Time Charter's principal objective. On the other hand, today's race is Morcon's main target so he should be at his peak.

He also comes from a stable which is firing on all cylinders. At Ascot, Morcon finished fourth and a half lengths in front of Tolomeo and on 6th worst terms he should again have the beating of Luca Cumani's colt. He should also prove too good for Cormorant Wood and

Wassl. On last year's form there was little between Cormorant Wood and Tolomeo in the Champion Stakes, on this year's Locking Stakes form there is nothing between Cormorant Wood and Wassl.

More spice has been added to the occasion by the decision to send Crystal Gitters from France and Sadler's Wells from Ireland. Crystal Gitters races well on firm ground. On the other hand Sadler's Wells has looked at his most vulnerable when it has been as fast as this underfoot.

Still, the very fact that Vincent O'Brien has seen fit to take up the challenge with Sadler's Wells speaks for itself. He won the race 12 months ago with Soloff and earlier in his distinguished career with Ballymoss, Pieces of Eight and Arturus.

Time alone will tell whether Sadler's Wells is capable of following in their footsteps just as it will also shed some needed light upon the ability of this season's crop of three-year-olds, of which he is a leading member. What is abundantly clear is that any runner who is fit at ease, for whatever reason, be it ground or distance, will be at a disadvantage with Morcon, who will be in his element.

Rahash, Rangefinder and Grand Harbour are other likely winners at Sandown. Rahash can continue Ron Sheather's good run by winning the Kingston Maiden Fillies Stakes which, on a direct line through Sikorski, it is possible to argue that Rangefinder has something in hand of Free Press in the Anniversary Handicap. Grand Harbour, an emphatic winner of the last year's Epsom Derby, now looks poised to win the Victoria Handicap, again at the expense of Milk Heart, who was behind him at Epsom.

Special Vintage, a brave runner-up to Karadair in the Northumberland Plate at New-



Morcon and Willie Carson, the combination napped by Mandarin to win today's Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park

castle a week ago, will be attempting to recoup those losses in the Commonwealth Handicap. But it will come as no surprise to me, if he is thwarted by another of Michael Stoute's horses, Prince Crow, who will be blissfully at ease on this ground. Prince Crow's York form received a considerable boost a fortnight ago when Marie Cath, the runner-up, won the Warwick Oaks.

The Lancashire Oaks is the main jewel in the day's programme at Haydock. Stoute is hopeful that he can take this good prize as well, with Malak.

Provided she relaxes and settles early on in the way that she did before she won the Cheshire Oaks, she should go close. In the Oaks itself she spoiled her chance by taking a strong hold from the start and running too freely.

My feeling is that irrespective of how she races, Malak will still find the task of giving 4lb to Sandy Island difficult. Considering that she spread a plate before the start of the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot and had to run on only three shoes, my selection did well to get within a length of Ballinderry.

At Newmarket last Saturday Prego was runner-up to Grey Deuce while Teleprompter has narrowly lost two consecutive races.

On paper there does not appear to be a lot to choose between the trio and all have been in the frame in usual company on their latest appearances.

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## Blinkers to aid Salmon Leap

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Vincent O'Brien faces some anxious moments this afternoon when a race of consequence to him will be staged at both Sandown Park and Phoenix Park. In view of the doubts being expressed in some quarters about the mediocrity of the present classic generation, it is vital that O'Brien's Irish 2,000 Guineas winner and French Derby runner-up, Sadler's Wells, wins or at least goes close to winning the Coral Eclipse Stakes in which he is the sole representative of his age group.

Less than an hour later Salmon Leap will be attempting to justify the decision to keep him in training as a four-year-old by repeating his success of a year ago in the group three Pegasus International Stakes over nine furlongs at Phoenix Park.

Salmon Leap, who finished fourth in the Epsom Derby and came from the rear to be fifth in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, has been a flop in both his starts this year.

He started 3-1 favourite at Phoenix in April when beaten by Erin's Hope and then ran a most disappointing fourth to Gay Lemur in the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket.

He wears blinkers today and these may aid his concentration as he faces up to a three-handed English challenge from Teleprompter and Kalin.

On paper there does not appear to be a lot to choose between the trio and all have been in the frame in usual company on their latest appearances.

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## BATH

GOING: Hard. DRAW: Low numbers best.

2.0 OAKHILL SELLING STAKES (21,000: 1m 8yd) (16 runners)

1 2004 SAFRON POWER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
2 2005 BELVER HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
3 2006 HARVEST J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
4 2007 KIVA ZULU J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
5 2008 TWISTE J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
6 2009 LAYTON LAD J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
7 2010 ACTION TURVILLE R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2011 COME ON GRACE M Fox 3-7-8 M Fozzard 7  
9 2012 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
10 2013 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
11 2014 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
12 2015 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
13 2016 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
14 2017 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
15 2018 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5  
16 2019 GRACIOUS HUNTER J Barry 4-5-11 D Derby 5

3.30 TYSONE STAKES (2-y-o: 22,117: 5f) (4)

1 2020 POTTINGALE (D) D Thos 9-4 S Haymont 3  
2 2021 LUCKY ANGEL (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2022 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2023 SAILA THESIS R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1983: Pacific King 6-11 T Ties 4-7 10 W D Gorman 6 ran.  
4-8 Pottigale, 7-4 Lucky Angel, 6 Lady White, 16 Sate Thms.

4.0 SOUTHMEAD STAKES (3-y-o: 22,052: 1m 3f 150yd) (4)

1 2024 GREEN ROCK S Hile 9-1 R Street 2  
2 2025 LADY CAPLAN H Candy 9-1 R Street 2  
3 2026 GUN KAM G Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2027 ACCURACY G Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Green Rock, 3 Gun Kam, 5 Lady Caplan, 12 Accuracy.

4.30 WESTON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-y-o: 21,216: 1f 107yd) (7)

1 2028 WATKINS HAWK H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
2 2029 SAUVAN (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2030 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2031 ABSOLUTELY BLUE H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2032 ASPIRA BORRACHA H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2033 KEEP STILL (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2034 TANG DANCE 8-4 S Kelghley (14-7) P Maltin 7  
4-5 Sauren, 3 Keep Still, 6 Aspi, 2 Borracha, 7 Kelt, 12 Maltin, 16 others.

5.0 KENNETH ROBINSON HANDICAP STAKES (3-y-o: 22,518: 1m 5f 12yd) (7)

1 2035 MY CHARADE S Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
2 2036 LITTLE ROCK H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2037 SPECIAL SISTER H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2038 LITTON BURN H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2039 SPECIAL SISTER H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2040 BARRACHA H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2041 CORALLIAN H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Tang Dance 8-4 S Kelghley (14-7) P Maltin 7.

6.0 BEVERLEY

GOING: good to firm. DRAW: 5f, high numbers best.

2.15 LAIR GATE SELLING STAKES (2-y-o: 2887: 7f) (8 runners)

1 2042 FEARLESS PAT M McCormack 8-11 P Bloomfield 3  
2 2043 NICE BUSINESS H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2044 HATCHESTER J Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2045 HOLY BURN H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2046 LINDA LUSARDI (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2047 RAVE PRIDE K Stone 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2048 ROAD BLOCK M Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2049 LINDA LUSARDI 8-11 M Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Linda Lusardi, 8-11 M Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

2.15 Linda Lusardi, 2.45 San Carlos Bay, 3.15 Toccave Botta, 3.45 Ardoo, 4.15 Millside, 4.45 Classic Jewel, 5.15 Northern Prospect.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 Linda Lusardi, 2.45 San Carlos Bay, 3.15 Toccave Botta, 3.45 Temple Bar, 4.15 Millside, 4.45 Ca Sero.

2.45 GOODFELLOWS HANDICAP STAKES (22,792: 2m) (4)

1 2051 FLORENCE M McCormack 4-10-15 G Guest 5  
2 2052 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2053 LUXURY (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2054 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Lady White 4-10-15 G Guest 5.

3.15 MILLERS MILE (28,432: 1m) (9)

1 2055 KELLY H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
2 2056 MARTIN M Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2057 BLAZE ALIGHT (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2058 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2059 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2060 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2061 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2062 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
9 2063 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Kelly, 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

5.15 KELDGATE HANDICAP STAKES (3-y-o: 21,285: 5f) (11)

1 2064 LUCKY BOY (D) J Barry 8-7 S Haymont 3  
2 2065 TRAD TRESLE (D) H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2066 NATHAN CASH H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2067 CLASSIC JEWEL H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2068 CONNARA (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2069 EMERALD EAGLE G Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2070 WINTERHILL PARK M Landon 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2071 FLIGHT MUSIC A Stewart 5-11 M Fitterer 2  
1982: no corresponding race.

13-8 Connara, 7-2 Classic Jewel, 5 Ca Sero, 8 Gods Lear.

3.45 SWANLAND HANDICAP STAKES (21,288: 1m 4f) (9)

1 2072 TEMPLE BAR C Britain 4-5-10 P Robinson 4  
2 2073 ARDOR H Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2074 APPLE WINE (D) C Chapman 7-9-4 G Landon 7  
1982: Apple Wine, 7-9-4 G Landon 7.

GOING: Hard. DRAW: 5f, 8f, high numbers best.

6.15 LADDOCKES GIVE YOU MORE HANDICAP (22,048: 1m 50yd) (10 runners)

1 2075 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
2 2076 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2077 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2078 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2079 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2080 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2081 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2082 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
9 2083 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
10 2084 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Lady White 4-5-10 P Robinson 4.

6.50 JIM GOLD SELLING HANDICAP (2780: 1m 2f) (6)

1 2085 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
2 2086 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2087 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2088 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2089 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2090 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Lady White 4-5-10 P Robinson 4.

6.15 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

7.25 Kewick, 8.0 New Witness, 8.35 To Onero, 9.10 Today and Tomorrow.

6.50 JIM GOLD SELLING HANDICAP (2780: 1m 2f) (6)

1 2091 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
2 2092 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2093 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2094 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2095 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2096 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Lady White 4-5-10 P Robinson 4.

11-4 Rose of Hesperden, 2 Midweek, 4 Arns, 7 Womans Lady, 12 others.

7.25 TORVILLE AND DEAN MAIDEN STAKES (2958: 1m 5f) (3)

1 2097 SCUMBER R Johnson Houghton 8-11 S Caughan 3  
2 2098 KAWKES R Johnson Houghton 8-11 S Caughan 3  
1982: Scumber, 8-11 S Caughan 3.

8.0 PIPER CHAMPAGNE STAKES (2-y-o: 22,231: 8f) (8)

1 2099 ASCENSION ISLAND G Hunter 8-11 S Caughan 3  
2 2010 BILLY WHITTAKER J Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2011 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2012 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2013 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2014 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2015 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2016 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Billy Whittaker, 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

9.10 LADDOCKES VICTORIA CENTRE MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o: 22,048: 5f) (12)

1 2100 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
2 2101 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2102 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2103 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2104 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2105 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2106 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2107 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
9 2108 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
10 2109 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
11 2110 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
12 2111 LADY WHITE (D) R Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Lady White 4-5-10 P Robinson 4.

14-4 Phipps, 11-4 Tiffin, 4 To Onero, 5 Kewick, 11-4.

10.0 PIPER CHAMPAGNE STAKES (2-y-o: 22,231: 8f) (8)

1 2112 ASCENSION ISLAND G Hunter 8-11 S Caughan 3  
2 2113 BILLY WHITTAKER J Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2114 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2115 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2116 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2117 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2118 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2119 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Billy Whittaker, 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

11.0 PIPER CHAMPAGNE STAKES (2-y-o: 22,231: 8f) (8)

1 2120 ASCENSION ISLAND G Hunter 8-11 S Caughan 3  
2 2121 BILLY WHITTAKER J Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2122 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2123 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2124 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2125 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2126 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2127 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Billy Whittaker, 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

12.0 PIPER CHAMPAGNE STAKES (2-y-o: 22,231: 8f) (8)

1 2128 ASCENSION ISLAND G Hunter 8-11 S Caughan 3  
2 2129 BILLY WHITTAKER J Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2130 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2131 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2132 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2133 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2134 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2135 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Billy Whittaker, 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

13.0 PIPER CHAMPAGNE STAKES (2-y-o: 22,231: 8f) (8)

1 2136 ASCENSION ISLAND G Hunter 8-11 S Caughan 3  
2 2137 BILLY WHITTAKER J Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2138 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2139 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2140 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2141 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2142 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2143 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Billy Whittaker, 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

14.0 PIPER CHAMPAGNE STAKES (2-y-o: 22,231: 8f) (8)

1 2144 ASCENSION ISLAND G Hunter 8-11 S Caughan 3  
2 2145 BILLY WHITTAKER J Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
3 2146 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
4 2147 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
5 2148 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
6 2149 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
7 2150 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
8 2151 HADAMON W Hester 3-7-8 G Landon 7  
1982: Billy Whittaker, 3-7-8 G Landon 7.

## SANDOWN PARK

[Televised: 1.45, 2.15, 2.55]

GOING: firm. Total: double 2.55, 4.00. Treble 2.15, 3.30, 4.30.

1.45 KINGSTON 2-Y-O MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (22,737: 5f) (8 runners)

1 2004 GADAMOR G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
2 2005 MADAM LIVING G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
3 2006 POLLYANNA (D) G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
4 2007 NADIA (D) G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
5 2008 NADIA (D) G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
6 2009 NADIA (D) G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
7 2010 NADIA (D) G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
8 2011 NADIA (D) G Gough 8-11 P Robinson 4  
1982: Thoroughbred 4-5-10 P Robinson 4.

2.15 ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (24,458: 1m 3f 100yd) (5)

1 2012 PRIZE PRISER (D) J Barry 8-7 S Haymont 3  
2 2013 PRIZE PRISER (D) J Barry 8-7 S Haymont 3  
3 2014 PRIZE PRISER (D) J Barry 8-7 S Haymont 3  
4 2015 PRIZE PRISER (D) J Barry 8-7 S Haymont 3  
5 2016 PRIZE PRISER (D) J Barry 8-7 S Haymont 3  
1982: Thoroughbred 4-5-10 P Robinson 4.

2.55 CORAL-ECLIPSE STAKES (Group I: 230,972: 1m 2f) (9)

1 2017 CRISTAL OLYMPIA (M) Fumani 4-4-7 A Galt 2  
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## BOXING

# Renard faces the business end of Coddell's jab

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

If Pat Coddell's Manager, Pat Lynch, is right in his assessment that the Warley boxer is twice the man he was when he retired unbeaten 17 months ago then Jean-Marie Renard will be leaving his newly-acquired European junior lightweight title behind in the Aston Villa leisure centre tonight before returning to Belgium. For, before Coddell walked away from £14,000 for an easy defence because he felt he could not give a hundred per cent of himself, he reigned supreme in Europe.

No one could get the better of the job against the quiet Englishman with the wide-based, crab-like stance. Now with the extra poundage and aggression added to his class boxing ability that won him four ABA titles, a Commonwealth Games gold medal and an Olympic bronze, he should still be the boss. A sensible person like Coddell would not be making his comeback, which started in May when he knocked out Kevin Phelan in Birmingham, if he did not mean business.

If Coddell wins, Barry McGuigan, who picked up the European featherweight title that Coddell discarded, will be looking over his shoulder. No wonder McGuigan's manager, B. J. Eastwood, will be coming to Birmingham to see for himself how big a threat Coddell poses.

"You will not recognize Pat", Lynch said yesterday. "He is much more muscled and hitting much harder with greater leverage. He has not lost any of his technical skills during the lay off. In fact, he has come back refreshed. Barring

## ROWING

# Anger over late call and Baillieu rebuff

By Srikumar Sen, Rowing Correspondent

Britain's leading coxed pairs of Bill Lums, Adrian Goss and Alan Lums, the cox, received a late call for the Olympic Games yesterday, but there was no reprieve for Chris Baillieu, the single sculler, who had hoped to make a third Olympic challenge. The men's and women's national quadruple sculls boats were also overlooked.

At the Henley Royal Regatta last week, Baillieu won the Diamond Sculls for the third time in four years and the men's quadruple sculls had a highly commendable victory in the Queen Mother Cup.

The selectors made their decision at a meeting lasting four hours, in London, yesterday, several hours after the Olympic rowing party had left for their training camp at San Diego.

The coxed pair, who have not rowed together since the Luscar International three weeks ago, is the second addition to the group since the team was first announced. Nouse and Lums made it to the final of the double sculls yesterday.

David Lums-Rockfield, secretary of the Amateur Rowing Association, said yesterday that the selectors changed their minds after learning that Nouse would pay his 13 Olympic entries for the coxed pair. This meant they could apply the policy of including any boat which could be reasonably expected to finish in the first three places.

It appears that Baillieu lost his chance because he had not provided enough evidence in competition to show that he could make much place in the single scull, an event that will still be well supported, despite the boycott by Eastern bloc countries.

One source close to selectors made it clear that Britain did not want to enter any boats that might trail in events with a small entry - and this probably tipped the balance for the two quadruple sculls boats.

Baillieu, the 24-year-old former double sculler world champion and a silver medalist in that class in the 1976 Olympics, described his omission yesterday as "monstrous" and "apocalyptic".

Baillieu pointed out that on the basis of his vast experience in the sport, he was sure that he was good enough to finish at least fifth in the Olympic final and had high hopes that a late push would take him even further up the field.

"I have raced at Vichy, Nottingham, Lucerne and Henley and that should have provided ample evidence to show that I should have been selected," he said.

"I am beginning to believe that this is a personal vendetta against me, but I have not yet given up hope that justice will be done in the end. I am keeping up my training but this latest news makes it much harder."

Imms, the 38-year-old cox of the cox pair now selected, greeted the news with dismay. "If it was not for the fact that I would be letting down my team-mates and the fact that I love the Olympics, I would tell the selectors to stick it."

"I was in boats that really only had to stay afloat to have won in Munich and Moscow, but we were heavily criticised for not being fast enough. Now I get a place in different circumstances."

"We now go as rank outsiders and I suppose if things turn to form we will come away with gold medals."

## FOOTBALL



Sunderland (left) and Trewick: joining new clubs

# Sunderland on contract

Ipswich yesterday signed the former England B international, Alan Sunderland, on a three-year contract, following his free transfer from Arsenal.

Sunderland, who is 31, spent the final three months of last season with Ipswich, on loan from Highbury, and helped them to avoid relegation from the First Division.

John Trewick, Newcastle United's record £250,000 buy from West Bromwich Albion, has agreed to sign for the Second Division newcomers, Oxford United, on a free transfer. Trewick, who was transferred on July 24 when Oxford report for pre-season training.

Wolverhampton Wanderers' manager Tommy Docherty, has signed the 26-year-old forward Tommy Langley on a free transfer from A.E.K. Athens. Langley, who had a period on loan with Coventry last season, cost £400,000 when he moved from Chelsea to Queen's Park Rangers.

Steve Elliott has signed for Luton from Preston for an undisclosed fee. The 25-year-old forward cost Preston £30,000 from Nottingham Forest five years ago.

Preston manager, Alan Kelly, said: "I didn't want him to leave us because he is a very good player."

# British eyes agoggle for bronze at the bottom of the Olympic pool

# Sync is in the swim at last at Los Angeles in the silly season

Synchronized swimming, a sport that turns the art of Mark Spitz on its head (and to the music of Flash Gordon) will have its Olympic baptism in Los Angeles. SIMON BARNES is initiated into the underwater world of "sync" by Caroline Holmyard, who cut her teeth on its soporifics when she was in her pushchair.

The first gold medals in the art of synchronized swimming will be at stake in the Los Angeles Olympics. As we watch our girls splashing out for glory, doing their best high kicks while upside down in the water, or suddenly shooting clear of the surface like fish, with huge grins on their faces, our eyes will peer beyond them into the background, 3000 ft. above, to Graham Chapman to make his entrance, as he did in the *Monty Python Show*, with swaggy stick tucked under his arm and bellowing "The Olympic Games is getting silly."

However, those philistines among us who find sync, well, less than 100 per cent sensible, will have our attitude changed just a little if our girls manage to win a medal or two. For they have every chance. The United States and Canada are unlikely to relinquish the first two places, but believe it or not, it is the Japanese who have long been the world's third best synchro nation. And the gap between Britain and the Japanese girls is narrowing.

If anyone has any doubts about the seriousness, intense concentration, determination and dedication of the British squad they will be resolved by watching the girls at work. Not at the weight training, which is vital, or at the unending set figures, in which perfection is the aim, but in their routines. I watched them spend three hours in an attempt to sharpen up a 15-second patch in their four-minute programme, in which they felt there had been a certain lack of tension the previous day.

Six hours a day is the normal extent of daily practice. Competition is built in national fashion

to figure skating with compulsory figures followed by free routine to music. There are gold medals at stake in both solo and duet. It is by tightening up on the compulsories that the dreaded Japanese may get overhauled.

The girls' attitude to the sport is wholly serious: how should it be anything else? Why is kicking a bladder about or doing a hop, step and a jump considered eminently serious while synchro is silly? The familiarity is all. Either all sports are silly or all are legitimate fields of endeavour.

And you would have to go a long way before you met a sportsman as serious, as tough and as determined as Caroline Holmyard, BA, aged 22, with her nose clip and her goggles and her stage smile in mid-routine contradicted by the quite remorseless set of her chin. "I was coached by my mother, I watched synchro in my pushchair," she said, wrapped in a towel after three hours in the water and knowing that she will look even better when her hair has been set with gelatine for Olympic competition.

Synchronized swimming got Olympic status in 1978 after 20 years of lobbying. With all one's determination to be open-minded suitably mustered, and with all one's awareness of the genuine skill and strength required for the manoeuvres, one can sit back

and enjoy the routines to the music of Flash Gordon, Taras Bulba and anything else. Girls disappear simultaneously, only to lash the air with synchronized and determined legs, or one girl alone will appear, upside down, or even the right way up, whooshed up as high above the surface as her sunken partner's strength can image. "I feel like Atlas," Miss Holmyard's partner, Carolyn Wilson, said.

Miss Holmyard's determination and self-belief are so blazingly apparent that one wishes she was opening the batting for England. "Of course, I'm looking forward to the Olympics, but I'm not going to let the fact that it is the Olympic Games put me off. They say there will be an audience of 300 million, well, I don't care if it is 600 million. I've got the confidence in what I want to do, I'm going to go out and be just me, do my routine, I'm going to do what I want and I don't care a damn what people think."

"Sometimes you win and the audience are dead, it all seems rather pointless. But you know when you've captured their imagination. You know when you've held them absolutely spellbound."

You can say what you like about synchronized swimming but you must face the fact that Miss Holmyard won't pay any attention. She is on her way to Los Angeles, and you can tell from the way that chin is thrust out beneath the smile, that she is not going there just for the experience.

SUNDAY'S WORLD SERVICE  
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